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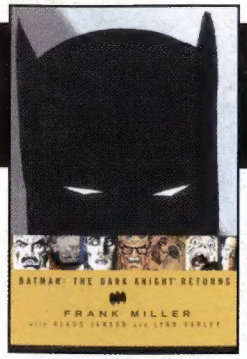

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A Quality Communications magazine

#154 JANUARY 2003

Inside this issue...

COVER: Yes, in the wake of Captain Britain, Union Jack and all the rest, it's another flag-wearing patriotic UK superhero. But this one's different. It's by Paul (**Kane**) Grist for starters, and exists in the same world as all those wonderful old weekly comics characters like Captain Hurricane, The Spider and Robot Archie. Get the full skinny on this new Image title on page 16

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Moonstone Noir to feature 1940s radio show host... TokyoPop expands Cine-Manga line through Disney... More Marvel manga mutants... *Elseworlds* sequel for JSA... Vertigo's **Jonah Hex** team back together at Avatar... TwoMorrows spotlights Alan Davis... **Green Lantern** writer makes Vertigo debut... DC to relaunch **Batman Adventures** on second Free Comic Book Day... Marvel lines up prequels to *X-Men 2* movie... Doctor Who reelative makes comicbook debut... Acclaimed 1970s writer/artist's six-parter brings **The End** to Marvel Universe... plus much more 5

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Sez Dez

Editorial
Dez Skinn

FANTAGRAPHICS' Eric Reynolds once stated that what he liked about **Comics International** was its level playing field approach to the industry.

Which is great, because that's always been our goal. Like in specialist comics shops, it used to be that news magazines would group by publisher. You'd have your Marvel section, DC section, a few other stand-alones (depending on who was in business that particular year) then an "Indies" backwater for the rest. The advantage of a level playing field approach is that everybody's thrown in together, irrespective of ad spend or market share, and – hopefully in our case – we run what we consider interesting stories and opinions, whether they're about a new small press publisher or an international mega corporation.

But there's more to that level playing field approach than placing. It's still about bias, or lack thereof, but it's also about what's stated within that positioning. I'll always remeber something Alan Grant said to me at a convention's hotel bar a few years back. He was writing **Batman**, **Lobo** and a whole slew of other DC titles at the time. He gave me a wry look and cussed me for **CI** giving one of his comics a low score in a review that month. "Did it deserve any better?" I replied. "Nah, not really," he admitted, and followed up with a beaming smile over another of his titles scoring a 9 the previous month.

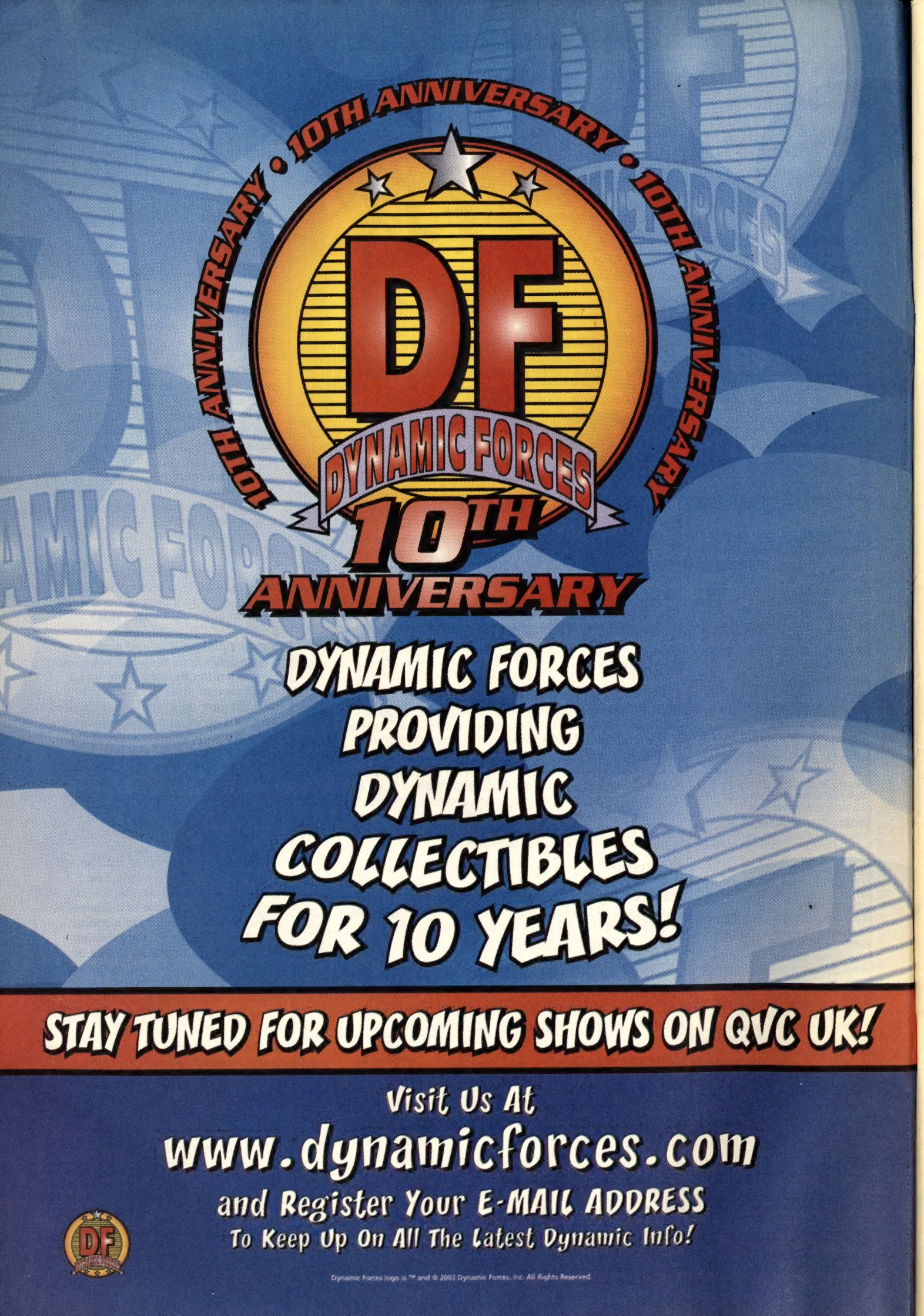
Without one book scoring a 3, the other's 9 would have been meaningless. It's all about context. And the independence to be able to criticise when justified. Our US equivalent, **The Comics Buyer's Guide**, fell foul of editorial not being quite so independent in the mid-90s. When it ran a critical review of a major title, the publisher immediately withdrew its supply of complimentary copies and threatened to withdraw all advertising should such negativity appear again. Such a loss could have crippled the title. But nobody ever said it was easy.

Then there's another US magazine which makes no secret of running editorial proportionately to publishers' ad spend.

We thought about doing that, but then all you'd ever read about would be shops, marts and mail order companies.

What price independence, eh?

***Comics International** editor Dez Skinn's career in the industry spans over 30 years. Titles he has created include **Doctor Who Weekly, House of Hammer, Hulk Comic, Starburst** and **Warrior**. Ex-editorial director of Marvel UK – where his Stan Lee-coined Sez Dez column had a monthly audience of over 500,000 – he has also edited titles including **Buster, Conan, MAD, Star Wars Weekly, 2000 AD Presents, Miracleman** and **Spider-Man** and won over 20 Eagle Awards. His co-created **V for Vendetta** is still under option to Warner Bros.*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2000 AD writer to relaunch controversial team comic

Above: Dwayne Turner promotional art for WildStorm's relaunch of ***The Authority****.*

Nikolai Dante*'s Robbie Morrison links up with* ***Spawn*** *artist Dwayne Turner for return of WildStorm's* ***Authority***

ROBBIE Morrison is set to follow in the footsteps of fellow Brits Warren Ellis and Mark Millar as he takes over the reins of one of the most controversial comics in recent years.

The latest in a long line of **2000 AD** contributors to be taken on by a US publisher, the *Nikolai Dante* writer has accepted the high profile task of relaunching **The Authority** for WildStorm.

More bombastic

Asked what prompted him to accept the assignment, the writer – who is reviving the title in collaboration with **Batman: Orpheus Rising** penciller Dwayne Turner – told **CI**, "I think what really attracts me to **The Authority** is the freedom to push things beyond what's usually expected of the superhero genre. To make the book bigger, bolder and more bombastic than anything else on the market, not just in terms of sex, violence and black humour, but in terms of character motivation and political and social comment.

"To me, The Authority is the superteam to end all superteams," Morrison continued. "They aren't just fighting to maintain the status quo, they're fighting to change the world. They are changing the world. Instead of simply possessing superpowers, The Authority could almost be described – in social and political terms – as a superpower in its own right. They're a more complex group than the standard superteam, in that they're willing to do whatever's necessary to build a finer, safer world. That includes influencing world affairs, instigating regime change, overthrowing governments, executing those who threaten humanity, actions which are all pretty relevant to the current climate."

Fuelling flames

"As for the controversy that has dogged the series, a couple of people have described it to me as jumping into the fire. If that's the case, I guess I better aim to make sure – in true Authority style – that my hose is connected to the gas tank and not the water supply," remarked Morrison, whose first **Authority** work – the **Scorched Earth** one-shot drawn by Frazer Irving *[see art below]* – is out now.

The Morrison and Turner relaunch of **The Authority** is scheduled to debut in May.

High Stakes preview promotes revival

IF THE first issue of Robbie Morrison and Dwayne Turner's **Authority** relaunch ships in May as intended, it will hit the shops a year after the original series was cancelled.

WildStorm – which has kept what was once its highest profile title in the public eye with reprint compilations and the **Kev** and **Scorched Earth** one-shots – is to promote the comic's revival with a serial running as a backup in issues of its $2.95 mature readers *Eye of the Storm* titles, which are to contain an additional eight pages each.

High Stakes begins on March 12 in **StormWatch: Team Achilles** #9. A three-parter written by Morrison and pencilled by Turner, it continues weekly through **Sleeper** #3 and concludes in **WildCats Version 3.0** #8.

Pre-credits analogy

The Authority is often discussed in widescreen terms, on which basis the writer told **CI** that *High Stakes* is a pre-credits sequence. "It gives the readers a taste of what they can expect, showcasing the action and the artwork, and the manner in which we'll be handling the characters."

The serial – part of Morrison's pitch for the title's relaunch – was a short story idea. Not suitable to be one of the comic's standard four-issue serials, it leads in to the new series.

Discussing the storyline, Morrison continued, "Viceworld takes the concept that existence is random and arbitrary to an undreamt of extreme, creating an entire society founded upon the principles of gambling. In pursuit of ever-greater profits, they instigate world wars and similar bloodshed so that compulsive gamblers throughout the multiverse can bet on the outcome. The latest gambling extravaganza focuses on The Authority, and whether or not they save the Earth from a massive assault. The odds aren't good, but those are the kind of odds the team likes."

Transformers publisher expands SF/fantasy line

*Above: Lou Kang and Erik Sander's artwork for the triple gatefold cover to **Sandscape** #1.*

WITH the success of its US only-distributed **Transformers** titles now assured, DreamWave Productions is again turning its attention to original series.

Lined up to join a roster that already includes such manga-styled comics as **Fate of the Blade**, **Darkminds** and **Warlands** is **Sandscape**. An SF title, it is set on the planet of Dessica, a barren wasteland of sand and rock, where two factions – the Sercotion High Empire and the Paren Cascade – have been warring for decades. An ongoing series, it is the work of writer Kato Li and penciller Lou Kang, creators of **Arkanium**. It is inked by Erik Sander.

Sandscape recounts the adventures of Valeri Cross, a young engineer who becomes embroiled in the conflict after her hometown is attacked without warning. What she does not know is that the fate not only of the Cascade and the High Empire but also of Dessica itself hinges on her involvement.

***Sandscape** #1, priced $2.95, ships in January.*

CrossGen readies monthly George Pérez title

***The First** writer teams up with former **Avengers** penciller to introduce planet-hopping Andra Radiant into Florida-based publisher's lineup*

WHILE indicating **Solus** may be the comic that ties the CrossGen Universe together, Barbara Kesel suggests it could also be responsible for tearing it apart.

Describing the monthly title as the series that spills the secrets of the construction of the CrossGen universe by travelling around it, causing or chasing trouble, the publisher's head writer told **CI** that the comic was inspired by two events. "First off, George Pérez told us that he wanted to work on a monthly title again, not just a series of one-shots that **CrossGen Chronicles** had been designed to be.

"He was interested in having a world and cast of his own," Kesel explained. "Brainstorming ideas that would take advantage of George's talent for scope and scale led to an outrageous idea for a series."

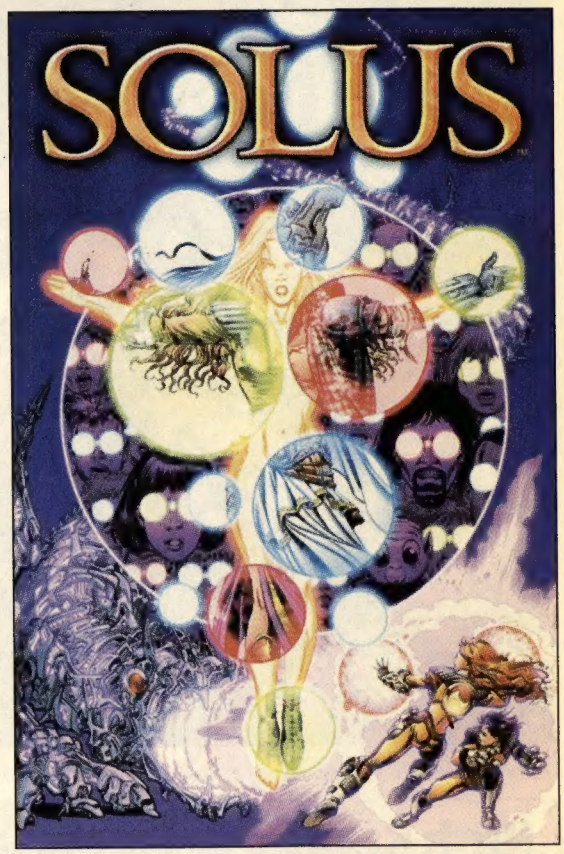
Kesel, who also writes **Meridian** and **The First** for CrossGen, said the focus of **Solus** is a young woman who is putting the pieces of her life back together. "Trouble is, they're scattered all over the universe..."

*MARVEL is holding off scheduling the much-awaited **Avengers/JLA** title until George Pérez has completed the pencils for all four issues. In the meantime, pictured above and below are two double-page spreads from the Kurt Busiek-written mini.*

Amnesiac heroine

Describing the main cast members, Kesel continued, "Andra Radiant, as she comes to be known, is a tremendously powerful and astoundingly impatient woman with a strange affinity for each of the CGU worlds and absolutely no memory why. Lindy is a Sigil-Bearer who crosses Andra's path in issue #1 and is completely destroyed by the experience. Zeuss is the self-styled creator of an amazing artificial intelligence that has taken over Lindy's world. And then there's Danik, who may be familiar to the readers of **Crux**."

Discussing the project, the writer explained the most challenging aspect was "balancing the needs for story and character against the big scale of the universe we're cruising through. Too much scale and you yawn because it's just space; too much 'people stuff' and you're bored waiting for something big to happen. We needed to make it feel like Goldilocks' porridge: just right."



*Above: The cover to **Solus** #1; George Pérez and Rick Magyar art.*

According to Kesel, the mood she, Pérez and inker Rick Magyar are trying to convey in **Solus** is one of energy and excitement. "We want you to be intrigued, but without a clue as to what we'll do next."

Big and loud

The style of story, she added, will be one worthy of the artist. "Big, loud, and exhaustingly fun.

"If we do our job well," she continued, "You'll never notice that you're cruising through a historical travelogue of the CGU. You'll just turn the pages as fast as you can, read and yell 'Cool!' when it's done."

Asked how she thought **Solus** would enhance the position of the comics industry, Kesel responded, "If you craft a title with that goal in mind, you'll get cardboard. If you try to create the most enthusiastically-conceived adventure you can and it happens to have that kind of impact, terrific."

***Solus** #1, priced $2.95, ships on March 19.*

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Manga publisher turns to Korea

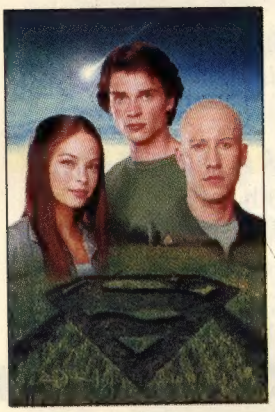
WHILE some US companies are augmenting their manga lines with translated manwha, Dark Horse has approached the Korean comics industry in a different manner.

The US publisher of such Japanese titles as **Oh, My Goddess!** and **Ghost in the Shell** has commissioned manwha writer/artist Eddie Park to originate a 24-page one-shot for the US market.

Set on a planet where endless wars are fought for the pleasure and profit of the elite, **Blood World** centres on The Blood Bath. A free-for-all killing tournament, it pits Neo-Human-Androids, cyborgs, battle mutants and monsters against each other.

***Blood World** #1, priced $2.99, ships on March 12.*

DC boosts TV tie-in special to ongoing



*Above: John Van Fleet's photo-enhanced cover for the first issue of DC's **Smallville** title.*

THE SUCCESS of its recent **Smallville the Comic** one-shot has prompted DC to launch a series following the continuity of the TV show starring Tom Welling as the young Clark Kent.

Illustrated by **Unknown Soldier**'s Kilian Plunkett and **X-Men**'s Mark Morales, the bimonthly is written by *Smallville* scripters Mark (**Aliens**) Verheiden and Clint Carpenter. It kicks off with a 48-page issue which features a Welling interview, a visit to the show's set and the start of a *Smallville* episode guide.

***Smallville** #1, priced $3.50, ships on March 19.*

1940s radio show inspires Moonstone noir one-shot

JOE GENTILE is reviving a character whose sole previous comics appearance was in a 1948 spin-off from a horror/mystery show that ran to almost 400 episodes on US radio between 1943 and 1952.

A possible influence on the 1952 creation of DC's Phantom Stranger and the host of Charlton's **Tales of the Mysterious Traveler** which debuted in 1956, the narrator of *The Mysterious Traveler* is to star in an eponymous one-shot written by Gentile and illustrated by **Black Lightning**'s Trevor Von Eeden.

The black and white 48-pager is a *Moonstone Noir* title. Gentile – Moonstone's publisher – told **CI** he was looking to bring a noirish mood to the story with "a touch of desperation, sweat, unclear motives, and some creepiness."

Reluctant to offer much by way of detail, Gentile said the comic – like the radio series – focuses on a guy riding on a train. His task is to get a passenger to tell his or her story.

"Unlike the very long-lived radio show, we *do* get some info on the Traveler himself, or some very strong hints, shall I say," the writer added. "One of the 'pulls' of the old show for me, was that I wanted to know about the Traveler, and I wanted to be creeped out by a good story. We try to address both 'wants' in our book.

"I thought the Traveler needed to be more than just the narrator," he continued. "I wanted him to have a part in drawing the story out of the passenger, have a more active approach, but definitely laid back.

"Our Traveler is certainly not the typical hero of any book," Gentile concluded.

***Moonstone Noir: The Mysterious Traveler**, priced $5.50, ships in March.*

*Above: Dennis Calero's painted cover art for Moonstone's 48-page **The Mysterious Traveler** one-shot.*

Cine-manga line expands

WHILE Italians know them as fumetti and Americans call them Fotonovels, Los Angeles-based TokyoPop has chosen to dub its own mix of photos, captions and word balloons as cine-manga.

Having launched its line with **Cardcaptors** and with a five-volume adaptation of Katsuhiro Otomo's *Akira* set to launch on January 21, the publisher is strengthening its roster with the addition of tie-ins to two top current Walt Disney TV series – the animated *Kim Possible* and the live action/cartoon *Lizzie McGuire*.

While the $14.99 **Akira** volumes run to 160 pages, both the new 5x7" titles are to be 100-pagers. The first of the two currently planned **Kim Possible Cine-Manga** and four **Lizzie McGuire Cine-Manga** books ship in March. Each is priced $7.99

● The photo-strip – a staple of UK girls' titles since the 1970s – is also a regular feature of advice columns in British daily and Sunday tabloid newspapers.

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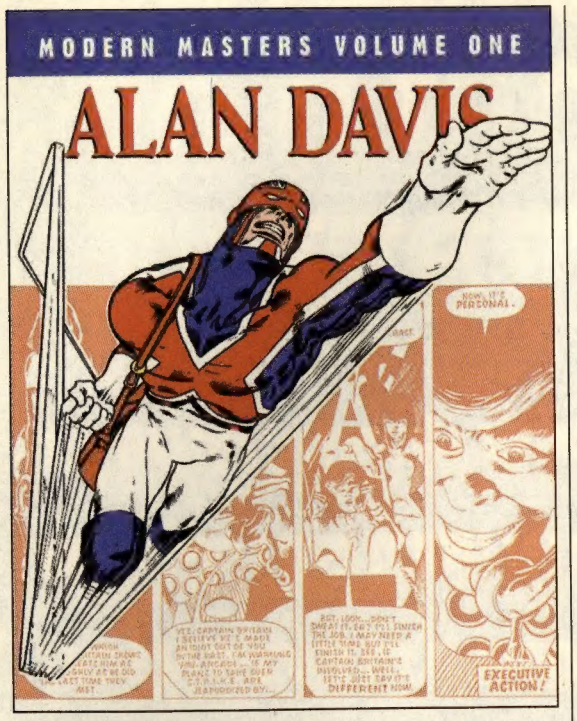
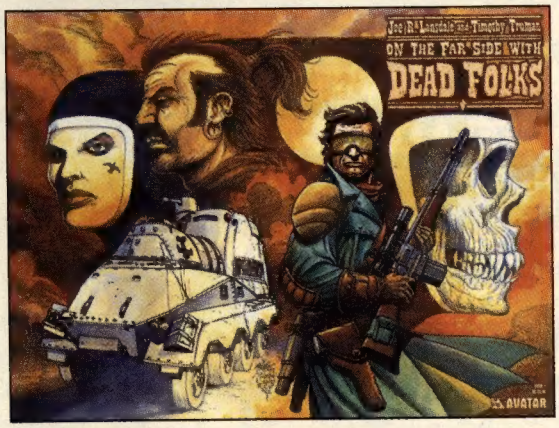


AN ARTIST whose 20-year career encompasses Captain Britain, Batman and the X-Men is the inaugural subject of an 8½x11" softcover series which aims to spotlight top artists currently working in comics. Published by TwoMorrows, the 128-page ***Modern Masters volume one: Alan Davis*** *features the longest-ever interview with the British illustrator. It also includes a sketchbook and interviews with his frequent collaborators Paul Neary and Mark Farmer. The black and white volume ships on March 19, priced $12.95.*



Avatar reunites Jonah Hex team

HAWKWORLD artist Tim Truman has signed on with Avatar Press to adapt a story by Joe R Lansdale.

The artist's three-issue **Dead Folks** is based on the horror writer's *On the Far Side of the Cadillac Desert with Dead Folks*. A Bram Stoker Award-winning short story, it was first published in **Book of the Dead** [Mark Zeising], a 1989 anthology of zombie tales inspired by George A Romero's *Night of the Living Dead* movie.

Speaking about the black and white project, Truman – who said the prose story was the first of Lansdale's work he ever read – commented, "It's a very straight forward, kick ass story – a real action movie of a tale."

Launching in March, **Dead Folks** tells the story of Wayne, a bounty hunter who has the bad luck to be in the middle of a desert filled with the undead. To get paid, he has to bring his man in and that means taking on the zombies who would be better off keeping out of his way.

● Truman worked with the horror writer on three **Jonah Hex** projects for Vertigo in the 1990s as well as Topps' 1994 four-parter, **The Lone Ranger and Tonto**.

Japanese artist to take on Marvel's manga mutants

MAKOTO Nakatsuka is to draw the latest addition to Marvel's *Mangaverse* titles.

The Japanese illustrator – whose previous US work includes **Vampi** #16 and a story in **Star Wars Tales** #12 – is working on the four-issue **X-Men: Ronin** which writer J Torres told **CI** is a continuation of what was set up in **X-Men: Equinox** and the **Mangaverse** series.

Japanese twist

Torres said, "Our story has different factions competing to recruit various mutants – including Jean Grey – for different teams with very different agendas. There's also a bit of a burgeoning love story in the mix involving Storm. And we tweak certain X-Men concepts giving them a fun Japanese twist."

The writer continued, "We went for something fast-paced, fun and obviously manga/anime-influenced. I asked Makoto to make it as cinematic as he could, and our editor saw to it that the art was coloured in an animated style. Visually, I think it's quite cool.

"The fact that I was working with someone who is not only Japanese but a manga artist made it a lot easier for me to achieve the look and feel I was hoping for." Torres, whose credits include **The Copybook Tales** and **Jason and the Argobots**, concluded, "I also didn't have to describe things like go-yo lanterns or explain concepts like hanshi soldiers to him, or explain what shima meant."

***X-Men: Ronin** #1, priced $2.95, ships on March 5.*

Above: Makoto Nakatsuka's cover art for the first issue of ***X-Men: Ronin****, a* Marvel Mangaverse *four-parter.*

Elseworlds sequel for JSA

THE 1999 **Doctor Strange** team of writer Dan Jolley and illustrators Tony (**Starman**) Harris and Ray Snyder are again joining forces, this time for a follow-up to their **JSA: The Liberty File**.

A prestige format *Elseworlds* two-parter like its predecessor, **The Unholy Three** takes place, Jolley told **CI**, about seven years after the 2000 mini. "The mood has changed; World War II is long finished, but the characters are now embroiled in the Cold War. Creeping out from behind the scenes are the story's two main heavies, a couple of former KGB operatives: an enforcer-type code-named Steelwolf, and an interrogator known as Parasite. And a new face takes its place on the team with the Bat and the Clock: a relatively inexperienced kid named Clark Kent.

"**The Unholy Three** is all about paranoia," the writer continued, "I don't want to give anything away about it, but I think people will definitely feel unsettled after reading it. Horrified, maybe. I'll be anxious to see."

Above: An extract from Tony Harris's painted cover art for the first 64-page issue of DC's ***JSA: The Unholy Three*** *two-parter, which ships on February 19, priced $6.95.*

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*BY THE time the first $2.99 issue of Dark Horse's **Judge Dredd vs Aliens: Incubus** four-parter hits US shops on March 19, the story will be all but over for UK readers. For them it began – as a 16-episode serial – on December 18 in the 100-page **2000 AD** Prog 2003. The clash between the Mega-City One lawman and the deadly movie creatures is written by John Wagner and Andy Diggle with art by Henry Flint. Shown above is an extract from Greg Staples' cover art for the Dark Horse first issue.*

Vampiric Vertigo debut for Judd Winick

THE FIRST Vertigo project by **Green Lantern** writer Judd Winick has drawn Tomm Coker back to comics after an almost three year absence.

The **Nightfall: The Black Chronicles** artist – who also includes **The Maxx/Gen**[13] among his credits – is joining Winick on **Blood and Water**, a five-parter the publisher describes as a darkly funny vampire tale about fast times, friendship and the price of immortality.

It introduces Adam Heller, a 23 year-old who has been ill most of his life, which is now drawing to a close. But his best friends are unwilling to let him die.

Unbeknownst to Heller, they are vampires and they are about to give him the gift of eternal life... by making him one of them. Unfortunately, he soon learns immortality is not all it is cracked up to be. There is something or someone out there and it is after him.

Green Arrow

Winick has recently signed a one-year agreement with DC. Although the contract is described as exclusive, it does allow the **Green Lantern** writer – who is soon to relinquish that title to take over **Green Arrow** – to continue his **Adventures of Barry Ween, Boy Genius** work for Oni Press.

Asked what attracted him to the Emerald Archer, Winick told **CI**, "He drinks. He chases women and he beats up bad guys. He's also arrogant, sharp, possesses nerves of steel, irritatingly socially conscious, and doesn't tolerate fools and takes no shit. He also has a very limited rogues gallery that I'd like to flesh out."

● Although now exclusive to DC, Winick will continue to be credited as the writer of Marvel's **Exiles** for the foreseeable future, having written a full 12 issues ahead. **2000 AD** artist Kev Walker joins him to pencil a three-parter beginning in #23.

***Blood and Water** #1, priced $2.95, ships on March 12. **Exiles** #23, priced $2.25, ships on March 5.*

*Above: Brian Bolland's cover art for the first issue of Vertigo's **Blood and Water** five-parter.*

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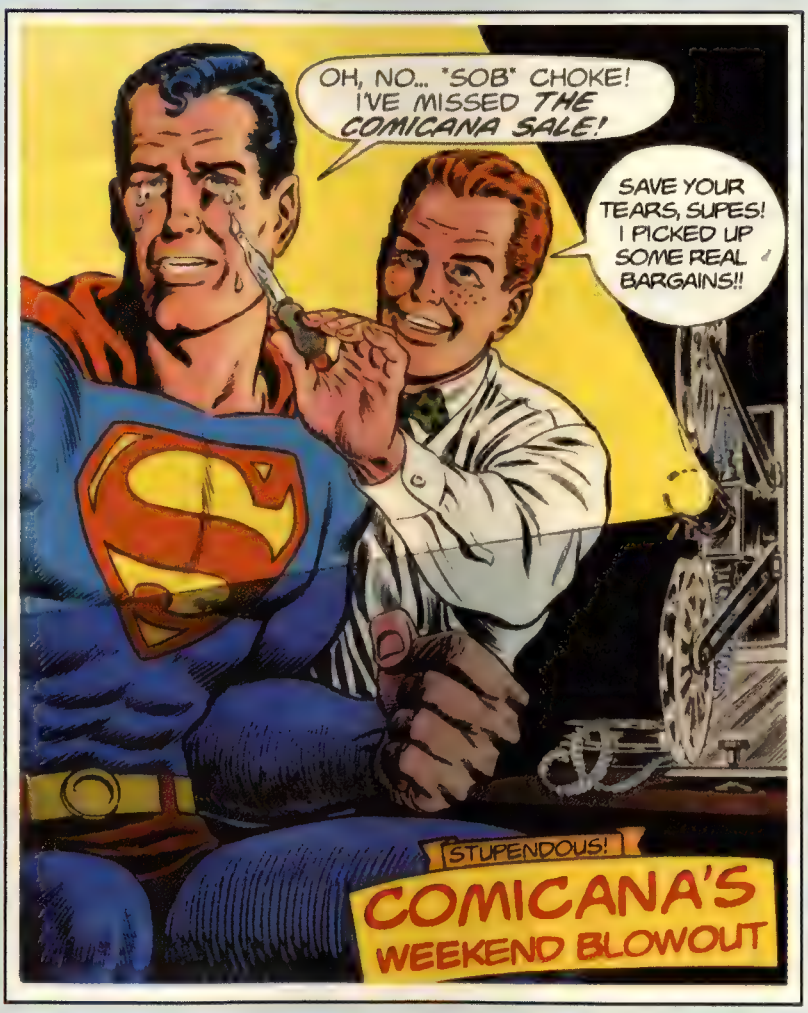
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AFTER an absence of more than two years, Toei's Digimon *characters are returning to comics. However, unlike the 12-issue run originated by Dark Horse in 2000, TokyoPop's version of the digital monsters from the animated TV series is to appear in English-language editions of manga collections. Published in the authentic right-to-left format, the 192-page first volume in the Los Angeles-based publisher's series of* ***Digimon: Digital Monsters*** *trade paperbacks ships on March 11, priced $9.99.*

Free DC first issue relaunches Bat-title

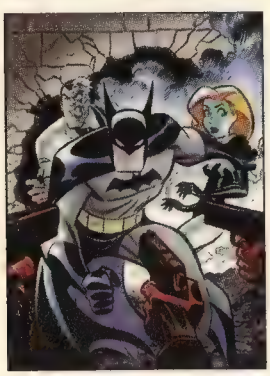
FOLLOWING the success of the inaugural Free Comic Book Day, US publishers and Diamond Comic Distributors are planning to make the industry-wide initiative an annual event.

Next year's promotion is scheduled for May 3 to take advantage of the publicity surrounding the release of the *X-Men 2* movie which opens in the States the day before.

For its part DC intends to relaunch an all-ages title with multi-media appeal, making the first issue available to the direct market as a freebie. A $2.25 newsstand issue is to be released on May 7 with #2 following a week later.

A tie-in with the *Batman: The Animated Series* that premiered on US TV in 1992, **Batman Adventures** is the latest incarnation of a title that launched the same year.

Each issue of the revived series is to feature two stories by contributors to various DC animated TV tie-ins. One is written and drawn by Ty Templeton while the other is by Dan Slott and artists Rick Burchett and Terry Beatty.



Above: Bruce Timm's cover art for ***Batman Adventures*** *#1 The Warner Bros animation producer is drawing the covers to the series' first four issues.*

Title history

The original **Batman Adventures** was cancelled in 1995 after 36 issues to make way for **Batman and Robin Adventures** which ran 25 issues until 1997.

That was followed in 1998 by **Batman Adventures: The Lost Years**, a five parter which segued into **Batman: Gotham Adventures**, which is being cancelled after five years with the March 26-shipping #60.

Marvel lays groundwork for second mutant movie

TWO of the most popular mutants in the Marvel Universe are to star in 48-page specials leading in to director Bryan Singer's sequel to his 2001 *X-Men* film.

Asked why Wolverine and Nightcrawler – who makes his big screen debut in the new movie – were selected to be spotlighted, editor Mike Marts told **CI**, "These two characters were chosen firstly because of the obvious popularity of both of these X-Men, and then because their storylines are integral to the overall story of the movie."

Secret look

"The goal of the prequels is twofold," he added. "First we're trying to give readers of the **X-Men** and viewers of the movie a secret look into what their favourite characters were doing just prior to the events of the movie. Once people see the film, everyone will know who Wolverine and Nightcrawler are and what they're about, but how did they get to where they are? What are the secrets of their past? How have their origins affected their current situations?"

Explaining the questions are all addressed in the two prequels, Marts continued, "Our secondary goal is to give readers a self-contained, accessible unit of great entertainment featuring their favourite X-Men characters. Our hope is that fans of the *X-Men* movie will seek out additional X-Men product after seeing the movie, and the prequels serve as a great introduction to first time comic readers."

Above: Tom Mandrake's cover art for ***X-Men 2 Movie Prequel: Wolverine****. Below: An interior page from* ***X-Men 2 Movie Prequel: Nightcrawler****; Karl Kerschl art.*

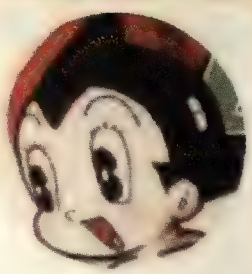
According to the editor, the biggest challenge with the prequels was coordinating all the various elements of the movie and making sure the comic adaptation and the two prequels stay true to what will eventually appear on the screen. "The movie-making process is a constantly changing one, so we often find ourselves making last minute changes to the comic to coincide with what they've done on camera. It's not an easy process, but it's a challenge we enjoy."

Original ideas

Nightcrawler is written by Chuck Austen and drawn by Karl Kerschl while Brian K Vaughan and Tom Mandrake are producing **Wolverine**.

"Both are original ideas created by the writers after reading the movie script and deciding what would make for an interesting prequel story," Marts explained.

X-Men 2 Movie Prequel: Nightcrawler *and* ***X-Men 2 Movie Prequel: Wolverine*** *both ship on March 19. Each is priced $3.50.*



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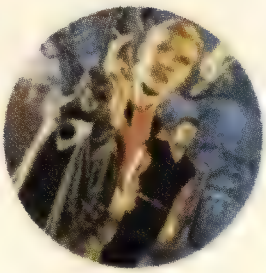
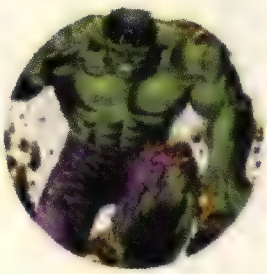

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Image preempts AOL/DC in UK nostalgia revival

Sheffield's Paul Grist beats WildStorm to the punch in relaunching popular 1960s UK comics heroes for America

THIS ONE could go through the roof. In the UK, at least. While writer-artist Paul (**Kane**) Grist is ostensibly reworking his aborted **Union Jack** Marvel revival here, he is also single-handedly bringing back into the limelight the history of UK comics.

Over the last few years there has been a marked increase in interest in old Fleetway/IPC characters such as The Spider, Robot Archie, Adam Eterno and even Captain Hurricane. Representing a major portion of UK comics fans' nostalgia, easily obtainable back issues of **Valiant**, **Lion** and **Tiger** act as an inexpensive alternative to the grade-obssessed market for US back issues.

With weekly print runs often exceeding half a million – as opposed to the 10,000 a month average on imported US titles – British comics had a mass audience which, as its onetime readers approach a more affluent middle age, are fast becoming a desirable slice of easily affordable memorabilia.

It is common knowledge that Todd McFarlane accidentally acquired Eclipse's rights to Miracleman when spending a reported $25,000 to buy the bankrupt company's assets. His sole aim had been to hand back to his colleagues Beau Smith and Larry Marder copyright on their Eclipse work, **Beanworld**, **Airboy** and such.

*FOLLOWING 10 issues as a self-published Dancing Elephant comic, Paul Grist's **Jack Staff** is being relaunched in colour by Image. The first issue of this $2.95 bimonthly title goes on sale February 6.*

In a similar accidental move, AOL's recent purchase of IPC's inventory gave it the rights to the entire library of non-**2000 AD** and **Eagle**-related Fleetway comics. **CI**'s bringing this to the comics world's attention has allegedly led to AOL subsidiary DC/WildStorm investigating the possibility of hiring top UK talent

THIS, IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING, IS
JACK STAFF
BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO!
AT LEAST HE WAS. NOW YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING "IF HE'S SO GREAT, HOW COME I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM?" WELL THAT'S BECAUSE TWENTY YEARS AGO HE DISAPPEARED AND EVERYBODY JUST FORGOT ABOUT HIM.
SO THE QUESTION YOU HAVE TO ASK IS
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED THERE?

ALRIGHT, THIS HAD BETTER BE GOOD!
AH, COMMANDER MALONE, SIR.
I'M AFRAID WE SEEM TO HAVE LOST WEAPON H.
WHAT?
APPARENTLY THERE WAS SOME PROBLEM WITH THE PACIFIER UNIT ON THE TRANSPORTER.
THERE WAS AN INCIDENT JUST OUTSIDE CASTLE-TOWN.
THE CREW REPORT THE CAPTAIN HAS GONE MISSING.

Project Hurricane discovers it has lost Weapon H, "There was some problem with the Pacifier unit... The Captain has gone missing", as Colonel Stewart sums it up.

to "do a Marvelman" and revive the historically-enriched characters for a new generation of readers.

But while corporate powers deliberate and pontificate, Paul Grist has taken his home-grown **Jack Staff** title to Image Comics, through which he is about to introduce American comics fans to an entire wealth of UK comics characters.

The irony is that **Jack Staff** almost didn't happen. Indie publisher Grist had previously worked for Marvel, scripting the 1996 **Daily Bugle** mini, and he approached them about reviving the Union Jack character, last seen in the 1998 John Cassaday-drawn four parter. When this didn't happen, he reworked his proposal into the self-published **Jack Staff**, under his Dancing Elephant imprint, through which he had also written and drawn the critically-acclaimed **Kane** since 1993.

As a self-published black and white title, **Jack Staff** has run to 10 issues, with the first four gathered into a 2001 collection, **Yesterday's Heroes**.

Following a sample, with Phil Elliott colouring Grist's work, Image agreed to take over publishing the title as a full colour $2.95 bimonthly.

Fleetway revival

Jack Staff tells the story of "Britain's Greatest Hero". That is, until he disappeared 20 years ago and everybody forgot he had ever existed. Now he's back, and so is The Spider ("I thought about renaming him, but The Arachnid just didn't sound right," Grist told **CI**), plus a Hulked-up berserk version of Captain Hurricane, Robot Archie (as Tom-Tom), Kelly's Eye (as the Valiant Stone) and more. Even old Fleetway scripter and SF author Ken Bulmer makes an appearance under the name of Ben Kulmer, a certain petty thief with a metal claw for a hand and the power to make himself invisible.

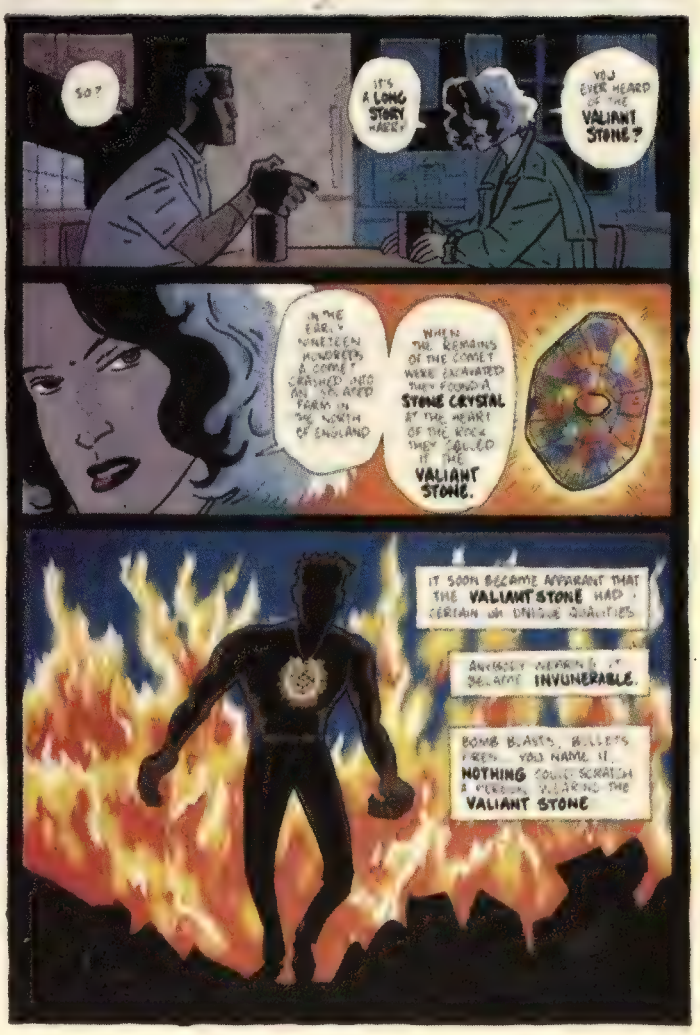
Also reflecting the UK multi-story format, but for a modern audience, Grist is structuring the title with an anthology of characters whose stories cross over with each other.

Aware of a larger audience through Image, Grist reassures new readers, "Don't worry if you haven't read **Jack Staff** before, I'll fill in the gaps as we go along."

AND?
I NEED YOUR HELP JACK.
WHAT? WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M GOING TO HELP YOU SPIDER?
BECAUSE YOU CAN. BECAUSE I NEVER SHOT ANYONE.
BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
WHAT DO YOU SAY JACK?

A retired supervillain and ex-nemesis of Jack Staff, The Spider calls upon our hero to retrieve a stolen Spider-suit, currently being used by a petty thief to pull off seemingly impossible burglaries.

I THOUGHT I'D SEEN SOME CRAZY STUFF IN MY TIME.
I'VE NOT SEEN ANYTHING.
I'M HARRY CRANE.
SHE'S HELEN MORGAN.
WE BOTH USED TO WORK FOR Q. WE INVESTIGATED THINGS WHICH COULDN'T BE EXPLAINED.
QUESTION MARK CRIMES.
Q
I SAY USED TO.
I QUIT
NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO SAY SOMETHING HARRY
QUICK AND THE DEAD
HELEN MORGAN WAS KILLED.
SOME THING LIKE YOU'RE DEAD AREN'T YOU? USUALLY WORKS
WHAT CAN YOU SAY TO MAKE THINGS SOUND NORMAL WHEN YOU KNOW THEY NEVER WILL BE AGAIN?
TEA?


SO?
IT'S A LONG STORY HARRY.
YOU EVER HEARD OF THE VALIANT STONE?
IN THE EARLY NINETEEN HUNDREDS A COMET CRASHED INTO AN OLD ASH FARM IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
WHEN THE REMAINS OF THE COMET WERE EXCAVATED THEY FOUND A STONE CRYSTAL AT THE HEART OF THE ROCK THEY CALLED IT THE VALIANT STONE.
IT SOON BECAME APPARENT THAT THE VALIANT STONE HAD CERTAIN UNIQUE QUALITIES
ANYBODY WEARING IT BECAME INVULNERABLE.
BOMB BLASTS, BULLETS FIRE... YOU NAME IT... NOTHING COULD SCRATCH A PERSON WEARING THE VALIANT STONE

In Brief

MARVEL has dropped the page count of **X-Men Unlimited** from 48 to 32 and reduced the price from $3.50 to $2.50 as a consequence.

The new format kicks in with #43. The first of a series of fortnightly issues, the comic ships on March 12. It features the reunion of Chris Claremont and artist Bill Sienkiewicz on a New Mutants story as well as a Paul Smith-illustrated tale of Lockheed the dragon.

VERTIGO is cancelling its $2.75 **Codename: Knockout** with #23. The final issue of the Robert Rodi-written spoof on spy movies and bad girl comics ships in April.

DREAMWAVE has pulled **Out There** writer Brian Augustyn's **Limbo City** from the schedule.

Originally lined up for an September launch and subsequently pushed back to January, the six-parter was to have been drawn by **Kindred**'s Brett Booth. It has been delayed until, as the **Transformers** publisher's new business development manager, Adam Fortier, told CI, "we get a new penciller, one that can adhere to a schedule."

MIKE McKone has signed an exclusive one-year contract with DC. The former **Exiles** artist is joining **The Flash** writer Geoff Johns on next autumn's planned **Teen Titans** relaunch.

KARL (**Muties**) Bollers and Arthur (**X-Factor**) Ranson are to replace Darko Macan and Igor Kordey as **Soldier X**'s regular writer/penciller team. They take over the $2.25 Marvel title with #9 which ships on March 19.

VERTIGO is rush-releasing a 128-page trade paperback collecting the first five issues of **Y: The Last Man**.

Written by Brian K Vaughan and drawn by Pia Guerra and José Marzan Jr, the $12.95 **Y: The Last Man – Unmanned** is available now.

THE first English-language edition of Osamu Tezuka's 168-page **Metropolis** is to be released by Dark Horse.

Originally published in Japan in 1949, the 4½x7" graphic novel is the **Astro Boy** creator's vision of a future in which a beautiful, artificially created girl wanders through a world populated by humans and the robots who serve them, searching for her nonexistent parents. The $13.95 black and white volume ships on April 2.

BARRY Windsor-Smith's **Young Gods** has been pushed back to September.

The Fantagraphics volume collects and completes the story from the aborted Dark Horse series, **Storyteller**.

*Above: The cover to the first issue of Comeuppance Comics' **Miranda** six-parter.*

Doctor Who's "daughter" makes her comics debut

MIRANDA is Empress of the Universe, Commander-in-Chief of the Galactic Fleets, Custodian of the Artifacts, Mistress of the Four Keys, Head of the Galactic Bank and Absolute Ruler of the Known and Unknown Suns and Planets. She is also Doctor Who's adopted daughter and the star of her own six-issue series from fledgling British publishers, Comeuppance Comics.

She was introduced in 2001's **Father Time**, a **Doctor Who** novel by Lance Parkin who is also writing the black and white comic. "Miranda's an ordinary girl from the '80s who discovers she's the Empress of the universe. So the story's got this hopefully believable and grounded character at the core of it, but she's surrounded by cool stuff like killer robots and space battles. I mean, yesterday she was declared Empress – today she learns there are plenty of people out to prevent her coronation."

The series is illustrated by games designer Allan Bednar.

***Miranda** #1, priced $2.75/£2.25, ships in January.*

Marvel Universe comes to end

Thanos creator Jim Starlin leaves self-styled House of Ideas after using six-issue miniseries to destroy superhero universe created by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko in 1960s

"THIS is probably my last job for Marvel for the foreseeable future and I wanted to go out with a bang," was Jim Starlin's appropriate response when asked about his latest project by **CI**.

The writer/penciller continued, "Marvel has this **The End** series and this is my contribution to it. But mine is set in the present and the 'Real Marvel Universe,' which comes to an end because of a basic structural defect. Thanos isn't responsible for this but exploits the situation to what he believes is the fullest. Unfortunately all doesn't go as the Titan expects. Thus the end."

Starlin – acclaimed for his 1970s work on **Warlock** – said that while Thanos is the narrator and main character, his six-parter also features the revived Pharaoh Akhenaten and an alien civilisation, The Celestial Order as the chief adversaries. "The rest of the cast? The entire Marvel Universe. I'm sure there's a few characters I left out, but not many. Akhenaten and the Celestial Order wish to rule our sector of space and Thanos... he's just Thanos."

Marvel Universe: The End is inked by Starlin's frequent collaborator, Al Milgrom. "After you pencil a job as tightly as I do there's nothing more boring than going back and inking it," explained Starlin. "Besides Milgrom does a wonderful job and has a much better line than I do."

The mini is described as spectacular and cosmic by Starlin who says he is just looking to tell a good story.

***Marvel Universe: The End** #1, priced $3.50, ships on March 26.*

*Above: Jim Starlin and Al Milgrom's cover art for the first 48-page issue of **Marvel Universe: The End***

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In Brief

COM.X has acquired the rights to **The Last American**, a Marvel/Epic four-parter first published in 1990.

A currently unscheduled trade paperback collecting the series – written by John Wagner and Alan Grant – is to feature a new cover by series artist Mike McMahon.

HAVING experimented with graphic novels by releasing **Ghost World** and then **Jimmy Corrigan** in the UK, Jonathan Cape is beginning to expand its line.

The publisher is following its November release of Daniel Clowes' **David Boring** with the 296-page **Palestine** by Joe Sacco. On sale in mainstream bookshops from January 2, the black and white softcover is priced £12.99.

ARKANIUM is to be cancelled by DreamWave once the first story arc is complete.

Created by Pat Lee and Kato Li as an ongoing series, the $2.95 monthly premiered in September but had only reached #2 by mid-December. The final issue is to be #6, originally scheduled to ship in February.

REBELLION has struck a deal with Egmont Magazines to republish strips from **Battle Picture Weekly** in **Judge Dredd Megazine**.

First up is to be *Darkie's Mob*. Originally appearing in 1976-77, the serial is written by Dredd co-creator John Wagner and drawn by Mike Western. It begins on January 15 in issue #202.

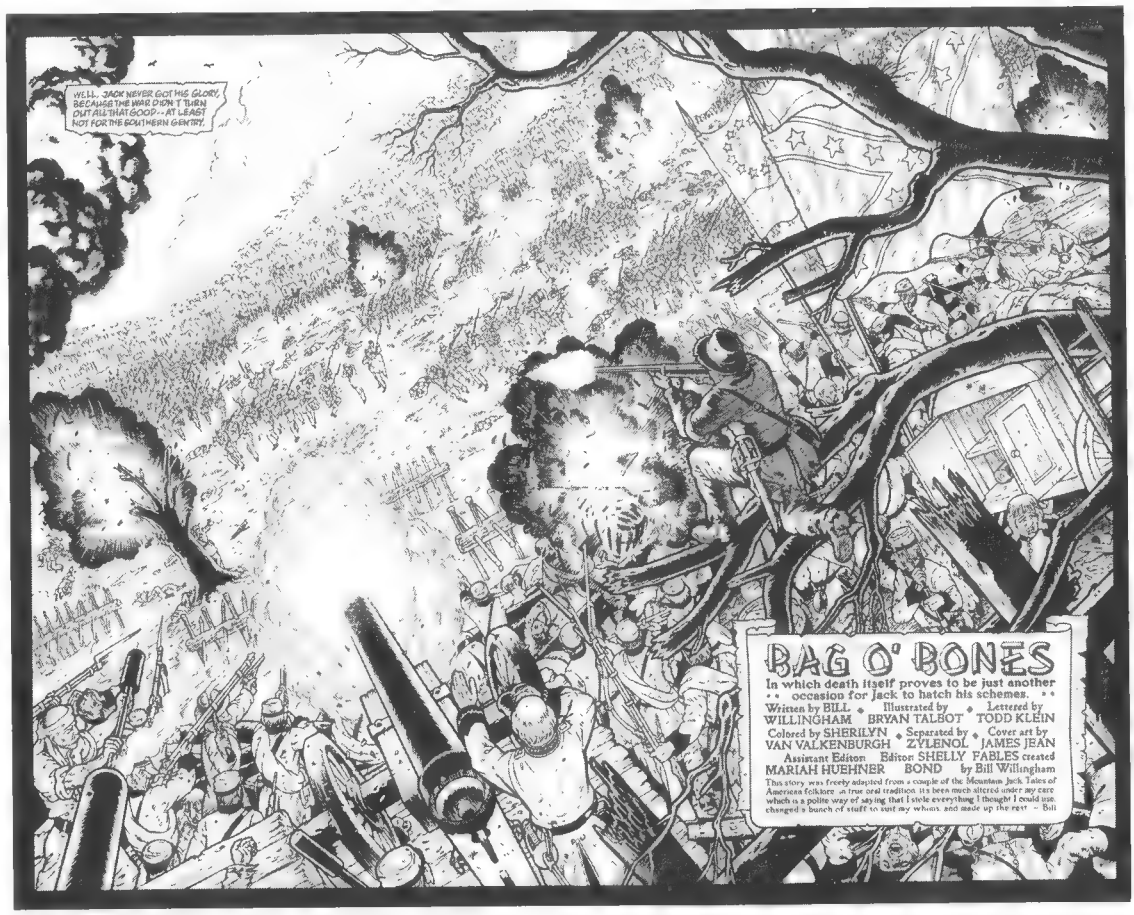
GUTSOON Entertainment is to inaugurate a line of English-language tankoban (trade paperbacks) with a series reprinting Hara Tetsuo's **Fist of the North Star**.

Previously published in the US in black and white by Viz [1989 and 1996], the new translation of the manga is in colour and in the traditional Japanese right to left format. The first volume of **Fist of the North Star: The Master Edition** ships in January.

NO HONOR'S Fiona Avery is writing a spin-off from J M Straczynski's 24-part tale of 113 beings born with super-powers in a world that had never seen superheroes before.

Set to premiere from Image in March, her **Rising Stars: Bright** chronicles the early years of Matthew Bright, one of the specials who used his powers as a police officer.

"The plan is to have Fiona do a number of these spin-offs," announced Top Cow president and chief executive officer Matt Hawkins. "Since Joe [Straczynski] controls the **Rising Stars** property, she's actually the only one he trusts to do it."


WELL, JACK NEVER GOT HIS GLORY, BECAUSE THE WAR DIDN'T TURN OUT ALL THAT GOOD – AT LEAST NOT FOR THE SOUTHERN GENTRY.
BAG O' BONES
In which death itself proves to be just another occasion for Jack to hatch his schemes.
Written by BILL WILLINGHAM
Illustrated by BRYAN TALBOT
Lettered by TODD KLEIN
Colored by SHERILYN VAN VALKENBURGH
Separated by ZYLENOL
Cover art by JAMES JEAN
Assistant Editor MARIAH HUEHNER
Editor SHELLY BOND
FABLES created by Bill Willingham

Above: A double-page spread from Bag 'o Bones, *a single-issue story running in* **Fables** *#11. Written by series regular Bill Willingham, the standalone tale is illustrated by Bryan Talbot who said, "It's set during the American Civil War and starts with an actual battle – the Battle of the Yellow Bayou. It's a lovely story full of folklore resonance." The* **Tale of One Bad Rat** *creator added, "There's Death in the story, but it's not* **The Sandman** *Death, it's the Grim Reaper. He's pretty gruesome. I also got to do some Civil War zombies." The $2.50 Vertigo comic ships on March 12. Talbot is also developing three graphic novels for Dark Horse. "One of them is quite personal," he explained. "I'm going to be in it as a character." The project is unlikely to appear before 2004 with the others following later.*

Com.X comeback

LAUNCHING a new comics publishing venture is an uphill struggle at the best of times but Com.X has gained a reputation for tardiness since it debuted in 2000 although this has been a result of factors beyond its control.

But the London-based outfit is determined to prove it is a serious contender after having suffered through, among other things, a burglary that resulted in its offices being trashed and all its computer-coloured pages from forthcoming issues being lost as well lengthy illness on the part of key personnel and the loss of **Cla$$ War** artist Trevor Hairsine to Marvel.

***PRIMAL** is Com.X's adaptation of Sony's forthcoming PlayStation 2 game. It is by Russell Uttley with artists Ben Oliver and Joshua Middleton.*

Following Cary Nord's decision not to take on **Cla$$ War**, the final three issues of the six-parter are in abeyance until a satisfactory replacement can be found. Publication of **Codename Babetool** is imminent as is the penultimate issue [#5] of **Puncture** although the remaining issues of **Bazooka Jules** remain unscheduled.

Com.X's first project, its still-unpublished adaptation of Konami's ***Silent Hill*** computer game is now likely to see the light of day by mid-2003 as is Guy Haley and Daniel Boultwood's **Njinn** which is being recoloured as a result of the break in.

● Indy Press has acquired the Italian rights to **Cla$$ War** and **The Sky Between the Branches**.

Star Wars Valentine

GREEN Lantern writer Judd Winick and **Concrete** creator Paul Chadwick *[see art above]* are getting together to show how Princess Leia and Han Solo got together in the days before *The Empire Strikes Back*.

Somewhat misleading-titled as it misses Valentine's Day by 12 days, their **Star Wars: A Valentine Story** is one-shot as is **Star Wars: Jedi – Mace Windu** which precedes it by a fortnight.

That 48-pager is by the former **Star Wars: Republic** team of writer John Ostrander and artist Jan Duursema with inker Dan Parsons.

It features the character played by Samuel L Jackson in *The Phantom Menace* and *Attack of the Clones*. As Windu tries to heal a split in the Jedi ranks he comes face-to-face with the same Jedi sword-master who tutored him in the legendary light-sabre technique, Vaapad.

***Star Wars: A Valentine Story**, priced $3.50, ships on February 26.*
***Star Wars: Jedi – Mace Windu**, priced $4.99, ships on February 12.*

Generations saga becomes trilogy

JOHN Byrne wants to set the record straight.

"There is a popular misconception in some quarters of fandom that I dumped all or almost all of the Silver Age elements from the Superman mythos because I didn't like them or – worse – didn't know about them and was too lazy to do the homework," the writer/artist told **CI** when contacted about his second sequel to **Superman & Batman: Generations**, his 1999 *Elseworlds* four-parter. "Nothing could be further from the truth. I love the Silver Age stuff – it is, after all, what first imprinted on me, making me a fan for life – but I also understand that most of it can work, now, only in specific context. That context is **Generations**. There I can have fun with all the stuff I loved as a kid, and look at how the years since have affected the concepts and the characters."

*Above: John Byrne's cover art for the second issue of his **Superman/Batman: Generations 3** 12-parter.*

Across centuries

Written and drawn by Byrne, **Generations III** is, unlike its prestige format four-part predecessors, a regular format 12-issue title.

Asked how it differs from the earlier series, Byrne explained, "**G3** takes place mostly on Earth, but an Earth that moves further and further into the future with each chapter. This was the suggestion of Mike Carlin's associate editor, Ivan Cohen, who thought it might be fun if the next sequel went forward as far as the 30th Century and the Legion of Superheroes. This it does, starting in 1925 – the first **Generations** series to start, rather than end, in the past – and jumping not in decades this time, but in centuries.

"In case anyone is wondering," he added, "there will be two flashback issues, which will allow the series to 'break stride' so that the readers will not know exactly what to expect every issue."

2025 comics

Discussing the tone of the series, Byrne remarked, "As with previous iterations, mood will change from issue to issue, though obviously in this case I cannot mirror the decades in which the comics would have been set – there were no comics as we know them in 1925 – and by the second issue it's 2025, and who know what comics will be like then!"

Kamandi and Hex

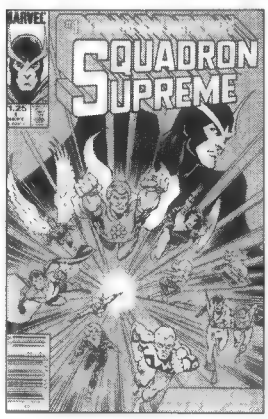
"And I hope you're kidding with that last question," was the writer/artist's astonished response when asked how he thought **Generations III** would enhance the position of the comics industry.

The 12-parter centres around a threat that is either very long-lived or attacks the heroes and their descendants across time. The series features numerous guest stars from around the DC Universe including Kamandi, the New Gods and Jonah Hex.

***Superman & Batman: Generations III** #1, priced $2.95, ships on January 8.*

JMS to bring back Squadron Supreme

WITH his **Rising Stars** drawing to a conclusion at Image/Top Cow, **Amazing Spider-Man** writer and *Babylon 5* creator J Michael Straczynski is bringing the concept to Marvel where he is reworking it as a revival of the self-styled House of Ideas' JLA analogues.



*Above: The cover to the 1985 first issue of the **Squadron Supreme** 12-parter; art by Bob Hall and Joe Rubinstein.*

A MAX – mature readers – title, the writer's **Supreme Power** returns the Squadron Supreme to comics but not to the Marvel Universe.

Instead – duplicating the premise of his Image comic – the series is to depict the likes of Hyperion *[Superman]*, Nighthawk *[Batman]*, Whizzer *[The Flash]* and Power Princess *[Wonder Woman]* as the only superheroes on a world that differs from our own only as a result of their existence.

Intended as an ongoing title, **Supreme Power** is set to launch until the summer. It is drawn by Straczynski's **Midnight Nation** collaborator Charlie Adlard.

*SHOWN above is Paul Gulacy's cover art for the first issue of **Reload**, a Homage three-parter drawn by the **Master of Kung Fu** artist and written by **Transmetropolitan**'s Warren Ellis. Set in the aftermath of the President's assassination, it follows Secret Service agent Chris Royal as she tries to track down the killer. But she soon discovers that organised crime holds the true power in Washington. Priced $2.95, **Reload** #1, ships on March 12.*

Competition winners

Thanks to the sterling work of **CI**'s latest Brighton team members, we're back up to date with our competitions.

Here are the recent winners, all of whom have already received their prizes.

Brother Matthew (CI#145)

The Grand Prize, John Watson's original oil painting for the issue's cover goes to:
G J Cook of Bottesford, Leics

The First Prize, John's finished pencil art for the cover goes to:
Mark Badham-Moore of Cambridge

Reader Survey (#146-147)

Our grand 2002 survey of the comics reading industry received such a fantastic response that the results are still being tabulated.

However, the grand prize winner, *Kim Phillips of Hampton-on-Thames, Essex*, will soon be choosing £500 worth of merchandise from Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct/Gear for Games. Well done, Kim.

Titan Crime Triple Competition (CI#148)

The following ten First Prize winners have all received copies of Titan Books' editions of Road to Perdition, Johnny Double and 100 Bullets: A Foregone Tomorrow.

A Wright, Deptford, LondonSE8
P Clarke, Egham, Surrey
G Probert, Hilltop, Gwent
B Knight, Leamington Spa
D Rustage, Prestatyn
S Doda, Barrow on Soar, Leics
T Smith, Charlton, Andover
P Cranfield, Milton Keynes
D Allmond, Oxford
K Green, Norwich, Norfolk

Second Prize. The following ten readers have all received a copy of Road to Perdition:

L Lampetti, Fano, PU, Italy
Debs Parr, Hindley Green, Wigan
J King, Brighton, East Sussex
D Wiggins, Stratford, London
P Hayward, Milton Keynes
A J Pulman, Creekmore, Poole
A Dare, Roath, Cardiff, S. Wales
J Hall, Halifax, Yorkshire
W Clarke, High Wycombe, Bucks
S Disney, Taunton, Somerset

Glenn Fabry signed litho competition (CI#149)

Glenn has signed copies of his limited edition print for the following five winners:

Rob Butcher, Preston, Lancs
B Chatterton, Leamington Spa
G Jones, Frodsham, Cheshire
G Wakeling, Long Eaton, Notts
Kevin Wheatly, Surbiton, Surrey

Zirk Competition (CI #150)

The following readers have allreceived Gremlynz Zirk statues (hubba, hubba!)

C B Morgan, Newport Gwent
Scott Skelding, Helston
Andrew Stitt, Norwich, Norfolk

DC dials up for a different H.E.R.O.

WILL Pfeifer's version of *Dial H for H.E.R.O.* is unlike either of the two previous incarnations of the concept which debuted in **House of Mystery** #156 [1966], as the **Finals** writer explained to **CI**.

Learning curve

"Previous versions followed the same users and the interest came from the superheroes they changed into," he said. "In **H-E-R-O**, the interest comes – I hope – from the people who use the device and the way they react to the sudden acquisition of superpowers.

"Before," he continued, "the main problem the heroes had was getting the right superpowers for the situation. This time around, the main problem they encounter is having no idea what to do, superpowers or not. Just because you can fly doesn't make you Superman, after all. I imagine there's a pretty steep learning curve to being a superhero."

Pfeifer added the most obvious difference between **H-E-R-O** and the **House of Mystery** and **Adventure Comics** versions of *Dial H for H.E.R.O.* is that the device – strictly speaking, it is no longer a dial – ends up with a new person each story arc. "Each person who punches in H, E, R and O deals with the powers in a different way, some better than others. **H-E-R-O**, to coin a sound bite-sized phrase, is about the people – and not the powers."

Definite link

"There is a definite link to both the **House of Mystery** and **Adventure** incarnations of *Dial H*," announced the writer. "Characters from both series will appeal in **H-E-R-O** in pivotal roles – though that storyline won't get started until several issues are out."

H-E-R-O is illustrated by Image's **Defiance** artist Kano.

***H-E-R-O** #1, priced $2.50, ships on February 12.*

*Above and top: Kano interior art from **H-E-R-O** #1.*

Parliament opens at Image

POWERS illustrator Michael Avon Oeming is leaving the art chores to **Superman Adventures**' Neil Vokes when he takes up writing **Parliament of Justice**.

Set as a black and white 56-page Image one-shot, the **Hammer of the Gods** co-creator explained it is about a vigilante and the price paid by being one. "It starts out in your traditional Batman storytelling mode, but falls pretty quickly into the darker side and consequences of such a lifestyle.

"Parliament is an older man, probably in his early 60s and has been at this quite a while, he is an icon of the city, its lone protector," continued Oeming, who added. "The city itself is a throwback to Fritz Lang's turn of the century Metropolis, yet it feels much older.

"We'll explore the themes of class, class war and judgment in society. Neil Vokes has done an amazing job: he's blown himself away artistically. We worked together on the story, but Neil's art is what truly makes the book special," concluded the artist turned writer.

*Above: Neil Vokes **Parliament of Justice** promo art.*

***Parliament of Justice**, priced $5.95, ships on March 19.*

Hellboy art collected

MIKE Mignola's demonic paranormal investigator first appeared in 1993 in the second issue of Dark Horse's **San Diego Comic Con Comics**.

To celebrate Hellboy's 10th anniversary, the Oregon-based publisher is putting together a 200-page hardcover that looks at the evolution of the writer/artist's technique across the decade.

It is being released to coincide with the start of shooting of *Blade 2* director Guillermo Del Toro's *Hellboy* movie in Prague. The collection features previously unpublished art including unused and unfinished covers as well as drawing upon Mignola's sketchbooks from the period.

***Mike Mignola: The Art of Hellboy** hardcover, priced $49.95, ships on March 26.*

Homage revives Astro City

KURT Busiek is returning to **Astro City** after a break of almost three years.

Following the lengthy hiatus – caused by the writer's ill-health – the Homage title will no longer be ongoing. Instead it is to be a series of miniseries with the first being titled **Local Heroes**.

The bimonthly five-parter is drawn by series regular Brent Anderson with, says Busiek, each issue featuring a story as seen through the eyes of a 'civilian.' "The focus is more on the normal people of the city than on the heroes, though that does vary quite a bit from story to story.

"And we see a whole mess of heroes," the writer continued, "from audience favourites like Samaritan, Jack-In-The-Box and the Confessor, to barely-glimpsed or mentioned-but-never-seen heroes like the Flying Fox and the Blue Knight, and even brand-new heroes, including Roustabout, Supersonic and Atomicus, the atom-powered hero of the early 1960s."

As with the earlier series, covers are by Alex Ross.

*Above: Brent Anderson interior art from the first issue of Homage's bimonthly **Astro City: Local Heroes** five-parter.*

***Astro City: Local Heroes** #1, priced $2.95, ships on February 12.*

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CUT OUT COUPON ALONG DOTTED LINE

Circle the correct answers from the following three questions

Who coloured Frank Miller's artwork on the two Dark Knight books?

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b) Liquid!
c) David Baron

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c) 1989

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___ NOVEL GRAPHICS
___ FRAME TO FRAME
___ A TO Z OF COMICS MOVIES
___ BEYOND 2000: DAVID BISHOP
___ BIFF'S ILLUMINATIONS
___ ADVANCE LISTINGS
___ IN THE GUTTER
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A Walk on the Fright Side

Novel Graphics by Paul Gravett

Highlighting the latest and best in graphic novels

SO HOW do you tell which witch is witch? Aside from say Marvel's Scarlet Witch or Enchantress, comic book witches have tended to come in two broad categories, either as sinister horror hostesses, from EC's Old Witch to **The Witching Hour**'s toil-and-trouble trio, or as cute comediennes, from Casper's friend Wendy to teenage Sabrina. What sets Scary Godmother apart is that she is neither a witch nor a fairy godmother; she's the best of both.

She's the creation of Jill Thompson, and looks a lot like her, a tall, striking redhead with lots of curls and charisma. Before Jill had drawn her first sketch, she had already made and modelled a Scary Godmother outfit, complete with tutu, stripy stockings, pointy hat and tiny batwings. Talk about getting into character.

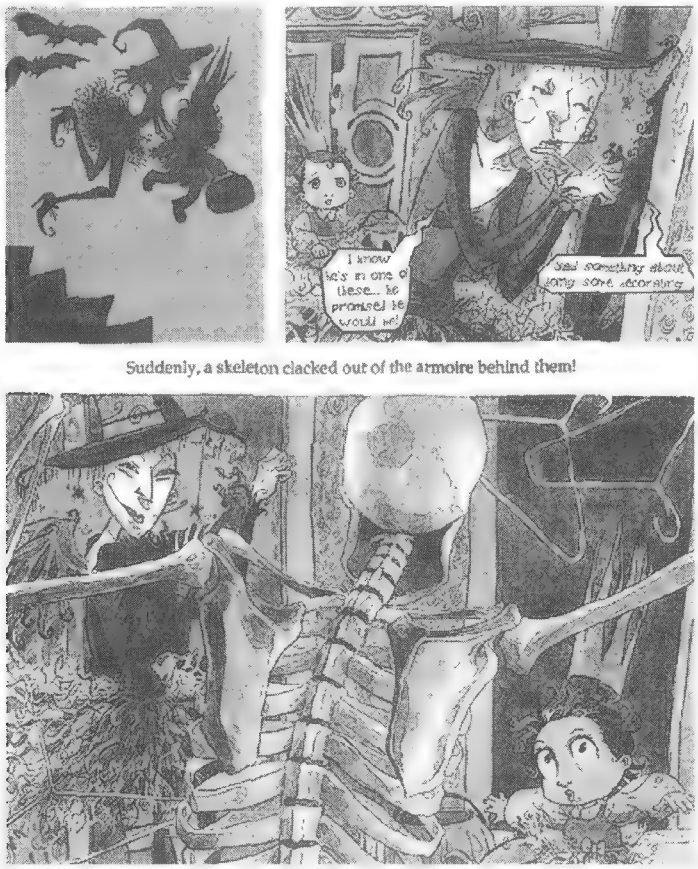
On the side, she has also posed for photo references for friend and fellow comics artist, Craig Russell.

A graduate from Chicago's American Academy of Art, Jill Thompson proved a versatile, realistic illustrator and rose to prominence at Vertigo drawing Black Orchid and especially collaborating with Neil Gaiman on Sandman. Graduating to fully painted artwork, she won praise and awards for her subtle watercolouring. Another breakthrough was the overlooked **Finals**, an offbeat campus satire for Vertigo written by Will Pfeiffer.

But the biggest revelation came in 1997, when Thompson first went flying solo on her broomstick and both wrote and drew the first 40-page story of her Queen of Halloween. In a brave departure from their typical comic book pamphlets and Goth angst, publishers Sirius Comics showcased her shimmering colour washes in a hardcover children's book, pricey at $19.95, but a beautiful package with dustjacket, endpapers and stylish blocking on the front cover, and a totally charming fantasy for all ages inside. Jill and Scary Godmother worked their magic and crafted three sequels, published each year in time for Halloween.

In the best tradition of children's stories, a youngster escapes everyday reality and enters a secret world, not down a rabbit hole, on a tornado or through a wardrobe, but simply by getting up on the fright side of the bed and stepping through a door. With a child's wide-eyed wonder, little Hannah Marie is our guide, as she explores Scary Godmother's realm where every

Above: Scary Godmother and (inset) creator Jill Thompson, plus the cover to her first volume in hardback.


Having learned a bit about bats, the Scary Godmother then flew Hannah down the stairs, where she began knock knock knocking on the closet doors. Who could she be looking for?
I know he's in one of these... he promised he would be!
Said something about some sore accordians
Suddenly, a skeleton clacked out of the armoire behind them!

Above: An interior page from Scary Godmother volume one, featuring Scary, Mr Skully Pettibone and Hannah Marie.

day is Halloween. She meets every manner of creature of the night: the vampire family Count Max, Ruby and their son Orson; the monster under the bed Bug-A-Boo; the fashion-conscious skeleton in the closet, Mr Skully Pettibone; Mr. Toad the teacher; Boozle the ghost cat.

It's the sort of spooky monster fun popularised by *The Addams Family,* Roald Dahl, Tim Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas*, Edward Gorey, even *Monsters Inc.* and Harry Potter, but with Thompson's distinctive twists. In **The Mystery Date**, every eligible monster around competes to go out with Scary Godmother, popping out of the oven, toaster, mailbox and bubblebath. When she succumbs to The Boo Flu in the fourth book, all the Halloween preparations are taken on by Hannah, who has to crochet cobwebs, conduct a full moon chorus and vacuum the arches in cats.

It's in her black and white comic books that Jill has expanded her storytelling range, in seasonal one-shots (**Bloody Valentine** – a touching vampire romance, and the festive **Holiday Spooktacular**, both affordable samplers of her work) and two mini-series collected into graphic novels.

Wild About Harry stars her lazy, eternally hungry teenage werewolf Harry in his sheep-pattern pyjamas, driving his gypsy mother to distraction.

In her longest, funniest story yet, **Ghouls Out For Summer**, Jill ships off her cast to assorted haunts, cleverly interweaving their hijinks and enriching their characterisations. Scary is invited to a witches conference, Hannah goes to her first summer camp, Orson has extra tuition and Bug-A-Boo has to prove his mettle on the Mythic Monsters tour. New characters include envious Tinkaree, ever-fearful Chicken Little and Jack, of Beanstalk fame, running his Giantkillers pub, now that property developers have bought out the giant's castle and converted it into condos.

She also reveals more about Scary's schooling at Grimoire's Academy, a sort of girls-only Hogwarts, where she eventually makes a few friends, despite being too sweet to be a witch and too weird to be a fairy godmother.

Jill's crisp, sinuous linework, her shadows and silhouettes, her writing and ideas, crackle with invention, down to her bubbly balloons for the aquatic Aloysius and her inspired use of photocopying to bleach out a repeated panel of Pettibone sunbathing in the desert. To top it off, she throws in recipes for tasty, easy treats. Yummy!

Adapted already as a hit play, coming soon to a TV near you in 3D CGI animation, don't wait till next Halloween to fall under Scary Godmother's spell.

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A return to form for feelgood factor comic book movie heroes?

Mike Conroy's Frame to Frame

Charting the latest news between films and comics

IT CAN all be traced back to 1989 and the worldwide success of Tim Burton's *Batman* but there are signs that Hollywood's desire to create darker, some would say more realistic screen versions of comicbook heroes may be coming to an end.

There's no denying the box office popularity of such movies as *Blade*, *From Hell* and *X-Men* and early indications are the forthcoming *Daredevil* and *Hulk* and currently in production *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* are unlikely to buck the grim 'n gritty trend but recent developments could be an indication that the movie industry is searching for concepts with a more universal appeal. This upbeat shift in escapist values could be in reaction to the frightening reality of September 11.

Now there's always a possibility that New Line Cinema is planning to strip the World's Mightiest Mortal of every ounce of the innocence and naivety that made Captain Marvel such a popular Golden Age alternative to Superman but then what would be the point of optioning **Shazam!** at all, let alone for the big screen?

On the other hand, a faithful adaptation of the source material would make perfect family cinema. What child wouldn't want to see a film that featured a youngster, Billy Batson, who becomes an adult with Solomon's wisdom, Hercules' strength, Atlas' stamina, Zeus' power, Achilles' courage and Mercury's speed when he utters the magic word "Shazam!" – an acronym of the classic heroes' initials.

And a clever director could make the movie sufficiently sophisticated that it could appeal to a potential adult audience at the same time. *Spy Kids*' Robert Rodriquez leaps to mind.

New World Cinema is currently in negotiations for the rights to *Shazam!*. On board the project as executive producer is Michael Uslan who filled the same role on the *Batman* flicks. Through his Branded Entertainment, he is also working to develop CrossGen's properties for cinema and TV.

Tintin and Spielberg

Getting back to the matter of directors, while Steven Spielberg has tended to concentrate on such adult fare as *Amistad*, *Schindler's List* and *Saving Private Ryan* of late, there is no doubt he is one of a handful of moviemakers who can make a film with all-ages appeal.

The fact that he has now regained the rights to adapt *Tintin* to the big screen would seem to be a match made in heaven.

Created in 1929 by Hergé – the nom de plume of cartoonist Georges Remi – for a Belgian Christian newspaper, the adventure strip features a young reporter's globe-trotting exploits. As he travels the world he's aided and abetted by his dog Snowy and his mentor Captain Haddock as well as by Professor Cuthbert Calculus and police detectives Thomson and Thompson.

In the right hands Tintin has the potential to be a franchise to rival or even eclipse *Raiders of the Lost Ark*'s Indiana Jones. And that's where Spielberg comes in.

The live action project is set up at DreamWorks SKG and Universal Pictures where it is to be produced by Spielberg and Kathleen Kennedy, his regular co-producer.

Animated aliens

It's been out of the spotlight for a long time, but the "Foreign Legion in space" concept created by Carl Potts with Alan Zelenetz and Frank Cirocco may finally be making its way to the screen.

Originally published by Marvel's creator-owned Epic imprint between 1984 and 1993, **Alien Legion** was first in development as a live-action TV movie with *Back to the Future*'s Bob Gale writing and *An American Werewolf in London*'s John Landis directing. More recently it was picked up by *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* producer Don Murphy who was looking at the series as a potential feature film to be scripted by TV's *Witchblade* writer J D Zeik.

Above: Hergé's Tintin and Snowy. Left: The updated original Captain Marvel as depicted by Mike Wieringo and Jerry Ordway for DC (1994).

Now the rights are in the hands of Mainframe Entertainment which plans to develop a TV series that features CGI versions of the multi-species troops of Force Nomad.

That could be good news. Among other things, the Canadian animation house has been responsible for *Beast Wars* and *Reboot*, both being critically acclaimed and commercially successful series.

Cartoon Batwoman

Is the long gone and all-but forgotten Kathy Kane about to make a reappearance in Batman's life, albeit in a direct-to-video movie?

It's unlikely but it could just be the 1950s female version of the Dark Knight is being resurrected – literally – as the main character in Warner Bros' *Batman: The Mystery of Batwoman*.

Whoever Batwoman is – and the short odds are on a totally new heroine – it probably won't be too long before she makes her comic-book debut. In the meantime she's described as a ruthless, destructive vigilante who slugs it out with Bane and the Penguin in the video which is being directed by *Batman Beyond: Return of the Joker*'s Curt Geda.

*J SCOTT Campbell must have the Midas touch. Not only did he manage to have a top seller across his entire **Danger Girl** series despite taking almost three years to complete all seven issues but he's now been able to sell the rights to the property for a second time. With plans for a live-action movie having fallen by the wayside, UPN has picked up the TV rights. It is looking at the title as a complement to* Buffy the Vampire Slayer *or as a potential replacement should that Joss Whedon-created series end with Season Eight as has been rumoured. Shown above is Campbell's cover art for the $4.95 **Danger Girl 3-D**. A 48-page one-shot shipping on February 26, it includes the eight-page preview from **Gen**[13] #25 plus **Danger Girl** #1.*

A-Z of comics being chewed over by the studios

Hoping to see your favourite comicbook on the silver screen? Take a look below...

Amazing Spider-Man pre-production (dir – Sam Raimi) The sequel is set to begin full-on production next year, although the latest words from Ted Raimi may through a spanner in that forecast. Ted has confirmed he will reprise his role as a Daily Bugle reporter in *The Amazing Spider-Man*. Shooting has begun on the sequel, despite the lack of a script. "*Spider-Man 2* has begun shooting already, and we don't even have a script," he said. "That's very typical Hollywood. 'Let's shoot it!' 'What are we shooting?' 'I don't know, roll cameras! Get Tobey Maguire in here, where is he?'"

Astro Aces in development with Flatiron Films (wr – Daniel Bernstein) Things are moving along with this project. Screenwriter Daniel Bernstein has developed a pitch, and it's hoped that the money men will like it. Flatiron executive John Kapral said, "Daniel's take is perfect for film and should make the transition from fun comic to fun movie an easy one."

Clive Barker's Tortured Souls in development (wr – Hans Rodionoff) Hans Rodionoff has been signed up to scratch out Clive Barker *Tortured Souls*. He previously teamed with Barker on the made-for-TV movie Clive Barker Presents Saint Sinner.

Constantine stuck (John Constantine – Keanu Reeves) This movie is now stalled because of having to wait for Keanu Reeves. The star is wrapping up work on back-to-back sequels for *The Matrix* and will then go directly into filming on two comedies. One thing that may have Reeves uncovinced is the fact that this project is still unencumbered by a director.

Fantastic Four (wr – Doug Petrie) Petrie has outlined his script as having a more rip-roaring start than previous script attempts, which were "big on 'these are astronauts that go to space'" in the opening minutes. "The opening scene has the already-formed team performing acts of heroism in front of a mob of fans, rather than belabouring the origin story," he said. The movie will present the Fantastic Four as celebrities, with the Beatles as a big touchstone. Doctor Doom, for example, is quoted as being "the Pete Best of the Fantastic Four. He gets screwed out of the superpowers, so he made himself who he is."

Garfield (dir – Peter Hewitt; wr – Joel Cohen + Alec Sokolow) The ginger tom, previously voiced by Bugs Bunny legend Mel Blanc, is set to hit the big screen in a new lease of life. Peter Hewitt, prevously of *The Borrowers* and *Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey* is set to sit in the director's chair on the big-screen, live-action and CGI version of Jim Davis' comic strip. Sharp scribes Joel Cohen and Alec Sokolow *(Toy Story)* have written the script for the movie, which focuses on Garfield's rivalry with the annoying slobbering buffoon Odie.

Hellboy pre-production (dir – Guillermo del Toro) Del Toro has bigged up the "F/X wet dream" that has been ploughed into the making of this movie. The production itself will jump over to European movie-making capital Prague in just a few weeks, with cameras set to roll in March. Excitement has been brewing over glimpses of Ron Perlman as Hellboy – fans who have been lucky enough to catch a glimpse have been testifying as to the authenticity of Perlman's look. Publicity photos of the actor in makeup should be available early next year. The film is slated for a summer 2004 release.

Hulk post production (dir – Ang Lee) It has been confirmed that print and film images of the Hulk will be available early in 2003. It's all looking very juicy!

King Conan: Crown of Iron dead (dir – John Millius) This entertaining title looks dead in the water. Warner Bros has decided not to let Warner renew the option on the character.

Lady Death in production. Some animation work has already been completed and a trailer is being prepped for the beginning of 2003. Early next year, Korean animators SunMin will begin full-on production. At this point the voice actors for the film have not been cast.

Shazam! in development with New Line Cinema (prod – Michael Uslan) New Line is in final negotiations with DC for the film rights to Shazam! "We're pleased to be developing one of the gems of our library with one of our sister companies," DC publisher Paul Levitz told Variety.

Spawn 2 (wr – Hans Rodionoff) Steve Niles and Todd McFarlane's script for *Spawn 2* is being reworked by Hans Rodionoff. Niles is reported to have said, "We were pretty sure this was going to happen from the beginning. The script had some pretty big problems, anyway. The biggest being that Spawn never actually appeared in it!" Comics2Film.com spoke to Rodionoff to get his perspective on the project. While one of his goals is to bring Spawn back into the story, he agrees with the decision to emphasize Sam and Twitch over the dark hero. "One of the challenges of doing a movie where the protagonist is a demon is that it's kind of hard to feel for that character. One of the things Niles and Todd did with the last draft was have it be more of a Sam and Twitch story," Rodionoff said. "The problem is it became solely a Sam and Twitch movie and there wasn't enough Spawn." A first draft is expected early next year.

Sub-Mariner progress (wr – David Self) This project is bubbling away nicely, with Marvel Studios exec Kevin Feige excited by the development of CG characters, which he says will play a prominent part in *Sub-Mariner*. In the real world, *Road to Perdition* writer David Self will be given another crack at getting it right on this project.

Whiteout resurrected? (prod – Wolfgang Petersen + Gail Katz) Movies are funny things. This one was dead in the water a couple of years back. But now Universal Pictures has picked up the big screen rights to Greg Rucka and Steve Lieber's comic, as a starring vehicle for Reese Witherspoon. Columbia Studios had recently placed the project into turnaround, after development by screenwriters Jon and Erich Hoeber didn't light the blue touch paper. It's likely that Universal will be seeking a new writer for the pic.

X-Men 2 (dir – Brian Singer) The first official X2 trailer has just hit cinemas, screened in the build-up to the second *Lord of the Rings* movie. The word on the streets is that the principal photography has wrapped on the movie, and it is assembling and editing. Producer Tom DeSanto recently spoke out about the post-production process. He said, "We're doing everything from the music and effects to making sure the film kicks ass on May 3." Like the rest of the film's cast and crew DeSanto seemed to really enjoy making X2. He said, "It was even better than I expected, and to finish the film in the spectacular Canadian Rockies is a great way to end this experience. It's not as cold as it was on the first film." Jones asked DeSanto about plans for *X-Men 3*. He said the fate of a third X-Men film is ultimately up to moviegoers. He said, "We'll know whether we'll make an X-Men 3 or not on May 3, 2003. Hopefully, everyone who wants an *X-Men 3* will show up then. Tell each fan they have to bring 10 friends." Patrick Stewart, who returns as Professor X was recently caught saying enthused things about the X-Men sequel, claiming it will make the original movie seem like nothing more than a launch pad.

compiled by Jim Hannah, clapper loader on seX-Men, for Adult Gold productions

Advance Listings

READERS: You can use this Advance Listings *section as an order form with your direct market store or mail order supplier. Simply mark the items you require, copy or remove these pages (or list them on a separate piece of paper) and give it to your supplier, together with a note of your name, address and phone number to guarantee not missing any of the new titles being published. Certain suppliers may not accept standing orders, so check with them first. All prices of US titles listed are in dollars. Import prices are usually converted at a rate of $1.00 = 85p UK sterling. Shipping dates given are the earliest date product will reach stores. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers.*

Compiled by Jim Hannah

The following are 32 page colour titles unless stated

ON SALE FROM

FEB 5

Dark Horse

Oh My Goddess! 95: *(Traveler* 5 of 5; Kosuke Fujishima) The adventure in alternate dimensions continues after last month's turn for the worst. Now not only is Keiichi troubled by the extra space in his house, he's also got a lot of former dorm mates expecting to get their stuff back, and that might be a little difficult to achieve. b&w 40pg $3.50

one-shot **Oh My Goddess! Hand in Hand** (Kosuke Fujishima; tpbk) The drunken Belldandy uses her powers to give everyone what they want – and every time she gives happiness to someone, there's an unexpected consequence. 256pg b&w $17.95

Star Wars: Empire 6 (Randy Stradley & Davidè Fabbri + Christian Della Vecchia) On a visit to a planet about to be enslaved by the Empire, Princess Leia comes to the fateful conclusion that impassioned speeches and diplomatic missions may not be enough. ... $2.99

DC Comics

100 Bullets #42 (Brian Azzarello & Eduardo Risso; *Vertigo)* Agent Graves travels to El Paso, Texas, to deal out a little justice. The recipient? Gas-pumper Wylie Times who has been down on his luck, stuck in a rut and he's about to find out why – and more important, who's responsible. Mature readers. $2.50

21 Down #6 (Jimmy Palmiotti + Justin Gray & Jesús Saez + Palmiotti; *WildStorm)* Preston and his brother Robert uncover the mystery behind the recent string of unsolved murders. Preston discovers that the Herod phenomenon affects more than just the people he touches. $2.95

Action Comics 800 (Joe Kelly & various) Special super-sized 800th issue! From his arrival on earth to when he finally donned his famous costume, Superman's life is re-examined, and a new character (who inspired him to be a reporter) is introduced. 64pg $3.95

Batgirl: Year One 3 (of 9; Scott Beatty + Chuck Dixon & Marcos Martín + Alvaro Lopez) It's hard enough being a vigilante in Gotham when your father's the police commissioner – and it's even tougher when Batman and Robin are standing in your way. $2.95

Batman: Bruce Wayne – Fugitive Vol 2 (various; tpbk) Batman's allies decide he's been framed for the murder of Vesper Fairchild. Now the Dark Knight must find out who did it – and why. This volume collects the stories from Detective Comics #768-772, Batman: Gotham Knights #31 And Batman #605. 144pg $12.95

Big Daddy Danger 7 (of 9; Adam Pollina & Pollina + Tyson McAdoo) It's a family affair when Big Daddy's brother Diablo X makes his move... with Dana Danger as his target! Who's behind Diablo's latest attack? And what role will Little Danny Danger play when the battle moves to a hellish dimension? ... $2.95

new **Birds of Prey: Catwoman/Batgirl** 1 (of 2; John Francis Moore & Darick Robertson + Jimmy Palmiotti) Batgirl and Catwoman join forces to thwart a murderer who preys on prostitutes – but what they uncover is a greater evil than either of them could hope to defeat alone. 48pg $5.95

Codename: Knockout 21 *(Secrets and Thighs* 1 of 3; Robert Rodi & John Lucas and Andrew Pepoy; *Vertigo)* Angela and Rebel Yell infiltrate E.V.I.L. headquarters in an effort to get the goods on Angela's late sister, but the rumours of her death have been greatly exaggerated, as a deadly potentially lethal encounter soon teaches them. Mature readers. $2.75

Detective Comics 779 (Ed Brubaker + J.C. Gagné & Tommy Castillo + Wade Von Grawbadger) While the Gotham underworld pays its respects to one of Batty's oldest foes, the Dark Knight himself scrambles to prevent the killer from striking again. 40pg $2.75

Doom Patrol 17 (John Arcudi & Tan Eng Huat) Robotman sets off on a road trip to discover America and himself, leaving the rest of the Doom Patrol without a forwarding address. ... $2.50

Hawkman 12 (Geoff Johns & Rags Morales + Michael Bair) Can the Hawks survive an attack by the creature known as Darkraven? Hawkgirl thinks so. Plus, Kendra's past catches up with her in a most unfriendly way. $2.50

one-shot **JLA: Riddle of the Beast** (Alan Grant & various; *Elseworlds)* In a universe of darkness, a world without a name struggles to heal itself after generations of war. And against murderous odds, a solitary boy must lay claim to his heritage and topple walls of ignorance and fear in order to save his home. 104pg $14.95

Justice League Adventures 16 (Scott McCloud & John Delaney + John K. Snyder III) There is a traitor within the Justice League, and only the most alienated member – Martian Manhunter – can put the clues together before the betrayal leads to the end of the League, and perhaps the Earth. $2.25

Looney Tunes 99 (various) Yosemite Sam, Marvin the Martian and Elmer Fudd team up to hunt Bugs, while Tweety and Sylvester go for a spin on the space shuttle. $2.25

Robotech 3 (Tommy Yune + Jay Faerber & Long Vo + Charles Park; *WildStorm)* The VF-1 programme intensifies as Roy is pushed harder by Lt Colonel Edwards, with increasingly bizarre scenarios including zero gravity and atmospheric re-entry. $2.95

The Sandman Presents: Bast 2 (Caitlín R. Kiernan & Joe Bennett; *Vertigo)* Angered by the suicide of her one last believer, the cat goddess Bast takes matters into her own hands – first via revenge on Lucy's brutal father, and then redemption, as Lucy's cold, lifeless body begins to warm and breathe again. Mature readers. $2.95

The Spectre 26 (J.M. DeMatteis & Norm Breyfogle + Dennis Janke) A Middle Eastern terrorist is set upon the path of redemption by The Spectre. But can one man's change of heart stand a chance against the will of a thousand fanatics? $2.75

one-shot **Steampunk: Drama Obscura** (Joe Kelly & Chris Bachalo + Richard Friend; *Cliffhanger;* tpbk) Collecting issues #6-12 of the series. Included are the story arcs *Mechanica Sundown* and *X*, following the continuing adventures of Cole Blaquesmith and his band of steampunks! 176pg $14.95

Vertigo Pop!: London 4 (of 4; Peter Milligan & Warren Pleece + Philip Bond; *Vertigo)* Rocky Lamont finds out the hard way that his plan to restore his lost youth may not have been the best idea. Mature readers. $2.95

Young Justice 54 (Peter David & Todd Nauck + Larry Stucker) Robin relates the events of the Secret's descent into darkness. She begins to enact revenge on all those who have wronged her throughout her young life, and last on her list are her Young Justice teammates! $2.75

Zero Girl: Full Circle 4 (of 5; Sam Kieth; *Homage)* Tim and Nikki drive back to rescue Amy, who is surrounded by squares in the mineshaft with Tim. Hold on... two Tims? $2.95

Marvel

one-shot **Apache Skies** (John Ostrander & Leonardo Manco; graphic novel) When the Apache Kid is murdered, a mysterious gunslinger seeks revenge – alongside the famous Rawhide Kid! Collecting Apache Skies #1-4! 112pg Mature readers. $12.99

Eden's Trail 4 (of 5; Steve Uy & Chuck Austen) The anime-inspired adventure. $2.99

Elektra 21 (Greg Rucka & Carlos Meglia; Marvel Knights) Elektra faces off with the men who honed her into a weapon: the evil clan of ninjas known as The Hand. $2.99

Exiles 22 (Judd Winick & J. Calafiore + Jon Holdredge) The team loses one of its original members. $2.25

Fantastic Four: Unstable Molecules 2 (of 4; James Sturm & Guy Davis + Bob Sikoryak) The secret history of the real people who inspired the creation of Fantastic Four. ... $2.99

Marvel Double-Shot 4 (of 4; Michael Gilbert & Klaus Janson) Two stories in one issue – starring Iron Man and Dr Strange. $2.99

new **Rawhide Kid** 1 (of 5; Ron Zimmerman & John Severin) That loveable red-headed scamp is back, and no one handles a hot rod like the Rawhide Kid! $2.99

Spider-Girl 57 (Tom DeFalco & Pat Olliffe + Al Williamson) $2.25

Thor 59 (Christopher Priest & Trent Kaniuga (p & i) Standalone tale of the Thunder God in the far-flung future. $2.25

Ultimate Spider-Man 36 (Brian Michael Bendis & Mark Bagley + Art Thibert) The Venom saga continues – as Eddie Brock learns a huge secret. $2.25

Ultimate Spider-Man Vol. 5: Public Scrutiny (Brian Michael Bendis & Mark Bagley; graphic novel) What's it take to ruin Spider-Man's reputation and twist it until he becomes Public Enemy 1? Collects Ultimate Spider-Man 28-32. 128pg $11.99

Uncanny X-Men 419 (Chuck Austen & Kia Asamiya) Archangel and Husk – alone against the Dominant Species. $2.25

ON SALE FROM

FEB 12

Dark Horse

Blade of the Immortal 76 *(Fall Frost* 4 of 6; Hiroaki Samura) The long awaited revenge match between Magatsu and Shira. The funny thing is, Shira only wanted to get back at Manji. Mature readers. b&w $2.99

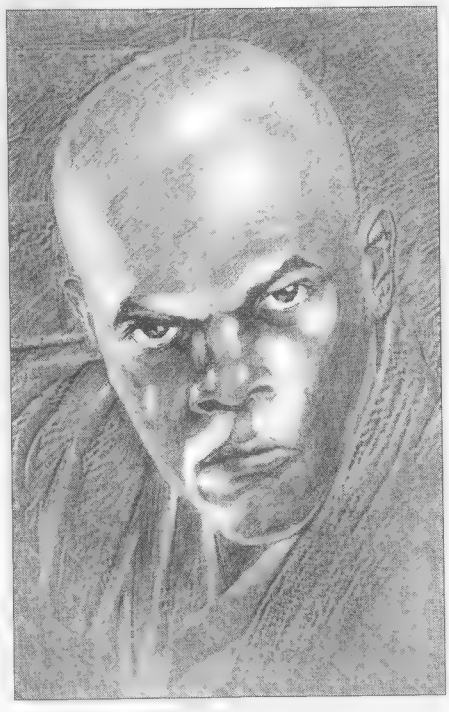
Club 9 (Makoto Kobayashi) Haruo Hattori leaves her little country farm town, her boyfriend, and her loony family for college in the big city. Before she leaves, she makes a pledge that she'll remain true to her boyfriend, despite all the temptations a big city can throw at her, and the temptations pile up like cordwood when the need for a few yen to rub together nets her a job at Club 9, a hot hostess bar. 192pg b&w $15 95

new **Grendel: God and the Devil** 1 (Matt Wagner & John K. Snyder III + Jay Geldhof) The year is 2512, and the kingdom of Grendel is at hand! Several centuries have passed since the mask of Grendel has been worn, and in that time humanity has survived a third World War, the fall of Western Civilisation, and the rise of an all-powerful church state. $3.50

one-shot **Star Wars: Jedi – Mace Windu** (John Ostrander & Jan Duursema + Dan Parsons) *See Close-Up, left.*

DC Comics

Adventures of Superman 613 (Joe Casey & Derec Aucoin) Huckster Funky Flashman tries to make a profit from merchandising Superman and some of



close-up

Star Wars: Jedi – Mace Windu

Dark Horse Comics

Writer: Joh Ostrander

Artists: Jan Duursema + Dan Parsons

As the Jedi's top general in the Clone Wars, Mace Windu must oversee battles on many fronts. But the hardest conflict is within the Jedi order itself. On a quest to reunite the divided ranks of the Jedi, Mace is forced to confront the same Jedi sword-master who tutored him in the legendary lightsabre regimen known as Vaapad. 48pg $4.99

ON SALE FEBRUARY 12

DC's greatest villains. But some of those heroes and villains are pretty protective of their image. $2.25

Aquaman 3 (Rick Veitch & Yvel Guichet + Mark Propst) Aquaman gets a new look and costume! The predatory Rodunn, Captain of the Royal Guard, ventures onto land in his quest to destroy Aquaman, his former king. But the king has a powerful lesson to teach his traitorous captain! $2.50

new **Astro City: Local Heroes** 1 (of 5; Kurt Busiek & Brent Anderson; *Homage)* Meet Pete Donacek, the genial doorman at one of Astro City's finest hotels. He can tell newcomers where to go to see superheroes in action and what neighbourhoods to avoid. Now find out how he gained that knowledge! $2.95

Azrael: Agent of the Bat 99 (Dennis O'Neil & Sergio Cariello) Batman finally takes the problem of Azrael into his own hands. But is it too late? Could the Angel of St. Dumas be beyond redemption? $2.95

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 164 *(Don't Blink* 1 of 4; Dwayne McDuffie & Val Semeiks + Dan Green) Blink, the blind man who can see through the eyes of whomever he touches, is back. Batman decides he needs the unique services of his old acquaintance, but learns he's been kidnapped by a group that may be working for the government. $2.50

Fables 10 *(Animal Farm* 5 of 5; Bill Willingham & Mark Buckingham + Steve Leialoha; *Vertigo)* The revolt at the Farm has been suppressed, the revolutionaries quelled. Goldilocks remains on the loose since her seemingly fatal shooting but the rest of the dissidents have been tried and sentenced. Mature readers. $2.50

Gen^{13} #6 (Chris Claremont & Alé Garza + Sandra Hope; *WildStorm)* Can the Gen13 kids pull together as a team as they face off against their first major foe – the mysterious and deadly Purple Haze? $2.95

Gotham Central 4 (Ed Brubaker & Michael Lark) Romy and Driver continue their investigation into the Lewis kidnapping while the rest of the team tries to track down the arsonist Firebug, who's been setting Gotham aflame! $2.50

Green Lantern 159 (Judd Winick & Dale Eaglesham + Rodney Ramos) Green Lantern and Jade defend a race of space-nomads from a endless horde of boar beasts. The two of them have held back the rampage by shielding themselves inside one of the last remaining cities, only to find that it may turn out to be their prison. $2.25

Harley Quinn 29 (A.J. Lieberman & Mike Huddleston + Troy Nixey) Harley's got a stalker – someone with an obsession so strong it can bring down buildings! But when the Cupid of Crime turns the tables on her pursuer, she finds someone else has got to him first. Trouble. $2.50

one-shot **Hawkman: Endless Flight** (Geoff Johns + James Robinson & various; tpbk) Collects the first six issues of the series. Egyptian Prince Khufu has been reincarnated time and again through the centuries. Now he's called Carter Hall – Hawkman! But can he reunite with his lost soulmate, Kendra Saunders, aka Hawkgirl? 176pg $12.95

new **H-E-R-O** 1 (Will Pfeifer & Kano) An old DC concept is updated in this new ongoing series. The mysterious H-E-R-O device grants superpowers to its bearer, but how will each handle those powers? $2.50

Hellblazer Special: Lady Constantine 3 (of 4; Andy Diggle & Goran Sudzuka; *Vertigo)* With the unstoppable sorceress Lady Blackwood closing in and nowhere left to run, Johanna and her allies must make a stand – even if it means striking a bargain with the forces of Hell. Mature readers. .. $2.95

Hunter: The Age of Magic 20 (Dylan Horrocks & Richard Case + Steve Bird; *Vertigo)* In the underwater library of Janosh-el, Tim Hunter struggles to find the Sefer Raziel, and, with it, the power to create or destroy a world. Mature readers. $2.75

JSA 45 (David S. Goyer + Geoff Johns & Leonard Kirk + Keith Champagne) Doctor Fate returns from his journey to Gemworld, where he finally discovers the true identity of the woman who gave birth to him. $2.50

Nightwing 78 (Devin Grayson & Rick Leonardi + Jesse Delperdang) As Nightwing takes on the new Tarantula, a familiar face turns up dead in the sewers of Blüdhaven. $2.25

Scooby-Doo 69 (Alex Simmons + Terrance Griep Jr & Joe Staton + Dave Hunt) In Seattle's famous Underground City, the Mystery Inc gang flees from 18th century ghosts who want the city back! $2.25

Sleeper 2 (Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips.; *WildStorm)* A member of Tao's inner circle, one of the Prodigals, has been killed. This is a serious offence, not so much because a human life has been snuffed out, but because the chain of command has been broken. Mature readers. $2.95

Stormwatch: Team Achilles 8 (Micah Ian Wright & Tomm Coker; *WildStorm)* Jukko Hamalainen is one the deadliest and most mysterious members of the new StormWatch, balancing humour and compassion with a lethal sense of purpose. Why is his body completely covered in scars? Mature readers. $2.95

one-shot **Superman: Critical Condition** (various) Superman may not just lose the love of his life – he may also lose his life! Lois Lane is missing. Collects Adventures of Superman #579-580, Superman: The Man of Steel #101-102, Action Comics #766-767, Superman #158 and the lead story from Superman: Metropolis Secret Files #1. 192pg $14.95

one-shot **War Story: Archangel** (Garth Ennis & Gary Erskine; *Vertigo)* When RAF Flight Officer Jamie McKenzie volunteered for training on the new CAMships, he didn't realise he was signing up to be the British equivalent of a kamikaze pilot! Mature readers. 64pg $4.95

Marvel

Alias Vol 2: Come Home (Brian Michael Bendis & Michael Gaydos; *MAX Comics;* tpbk) Superhero-turned-private eye Jessica Jones travels to upstate New York to investigate the disappearance of a teenage girl – rumoured to be a mutant. Collects Alias #11-15. 128pg Mature readers $13.99

Black Panther 54 (Christopher Priest & Jorge Lucas) Kasper Cole's game grows increasingly dangerous as he struggles with his role as the new Black Panther. $2.50

Captain America 9 (John Ney Rieber & Trevor Hairsine + Danny Miki; *Marvel Knights)* The man named Redpath wants the same thing that Captain America wants: a United States that lives up to the dreams of the forefathers. ... $2.99

Daredevil 43 (Brian Michael Bendis & Alex Maleev) Matt Murdock's defence of his secret identity takes a huge turn for the worse. $2.99

Daredevil Vol. 5: Out (Brian Michael Bendis & Alex Maleev; *Marvel Knights;* tpbk) When Matt Murdock's most guarded secret is sold to a tabloid newspaper, Daredevil's secret identity is exposed to the world! Collects Daredevil (Vol. 2) #32-40! 208pg $19.99

Incredible Hulk 50 (Bruce Jones & Mike Deodato) 48pg $3.50

Iron Man 65 (Mike Grell & Michael Ryan + Sean Parsons) Tony Stark's world comes crashing down. $2.25

Killraven 5 (of 6; Alan Davis & Mark Farmer) $2.99

Mekanix 5 (of 6; Chris Claremont & Juan Bobillo + Marcelo Sosa) Are those serial killers – or Sentinels? And what are they doing on campus? $2.99

Punisher 22 (Garth Ennis & Steve Dillon; *Marvel Knights)* Two cops are caught in a mess – and only The Punisher can clean it up. $2.99

Ultimate X-Men 29 (Mark Millar & Adam Kubert + Art Thibert) Revealed: the fate of the missing X-Man! $2.25

new **X-Men Legends Vol. 1: Mutant Genesis** (Chris Claremont & Jim Lee; tpbk) The world is once again threatened by the mutant terrorist Magneto, and only the X-Men can stop him. Collects X-Men (Vol. 2) #1-7! 176pg $16.95

ON SALE WEEK ENDING

FEB 19

Dark Horse

one-shot **Kiss** (Joe Casey & Mel Rubi + Derek Fridolfs; tpbk) In the years following the split-up of these four superpowered warriors, they've followed very separate paths. The Demon is a bounty hunter; The Starchild lives with a race of women warriors in South America; The Celestial is cruising the solar system with no human contact; and The Beast King's getting in touch with his bestial side. Collects the first four issues of the series! 80pg $10.95

one-shot **Lone Wolf 2100: Shadows on Saplings** (Mike Kennedy & Francisco Ruiz Velasco; tpbk) A young girl may hold the key to saving the world – or destroying it. A corporation wants her secret – no matter what it may be. Her only companion is an android who, incidentally, is accused of killing her father. 104pg $12.95

Star Wars: Republic 51 (Haden Blackman & Stephen Thompson) On one of the moons of Naboo, General Obi-Wan Kenobi and his troops make a horrifying discovery: The entire population of Gungan settlers has been wiped out in a genocidal chemical attack by a power-mad Separatist commander. $2.99

one-shot **What's Michael?: Fat Cat in the City** (Makoto Kobayashi; tpbk) Slice-of-life cat comedy with screwball fantasy scenarios that run kitty cats through the funhouse mirror. 88pg b&w ... $8.95

DC Comics

Automatic Kafka 8 (Joe Casey & Ashley Wood; *WildStorm)* Automatic Kafka makes a life-altering decision that brings him one step closer to discovering the Secret. But mysteries remain: How much does the Warning really know? Mature readers. $2.95

Batgirl 37 (Kelley Puckett & Damion Scott + Robert Campanella) When a master thief kidnaps a remarkable child with talents worth millions of dollars, it's up to Batgirl to solve the crime and save the child. $2.50

Batman: Gotham Knights 38 (Scott Beatty + Ann Nocenti & Roger Robinson

Illuminations

Highlights from February's releases

Selected by Martin "Biff" Averre

Some comics characters take on a life of their own, a life bigger than the sum of its parts, reaching icon status. A new contender for this crown is Hellboy. Once on this plateau creators line up to give their version/vision of this now iconic character. Dark Horse's **Hellboy Anthology** provides the opportunity with issue 1 for 10 creators to enrich the life of Hellboy. The cover and first story are by John Cassaday, with Fabian Nicieza, Andi Watson and more making their mark. All Hellboy series sell well on release and as back-issues: I expect this series to perhaps even exceed sales of the source. **Sales 5/5 Quality 5/5**

Vertigo, DC's 'adult' imprint, has now been around for 10 years and has been the birthplace of several seminal works, most by British talent. To celebrate this milestone and preview the year ahead DC is releasing **Vertigo X Anniversary Preview**, a 48-pager with stories, interviews and photos. And if this wasn't good enough on its own, DC has priced it at only 99c. The output from Vertigo has had its low as well as high points, but its value in trying to broaden the scope and style of comics must be undisputed. For those bored with spandex, Vertigo offers a wide range of alternative reading. Don't miss this bargain preview. **Sales 5/5 Quality 5/5**

DC goes from the magnificent to the absurd when it comes to launching new series and I count **Dial H for Hero** in the absurd class. This series originally ran in **Adventure Comics** #479 to 490 in 1981/2 and was not strong enough then to move to a standalone series, so why try now when sales figures are far, far lower than they were back in the early '80s? The creators, while a good solid team, are not 'fan favourites' destined to pull readers to the title, the premise of which is: a young disillusioned man finds a device with which he can 'dial' himself various powers. My gut reaction is six to seven issues. **Sales 1/5 Quality 3/5**

Now, one for the 'magnificent' category; a title that has reached #800. Back in May 1938 when **Action** #1 went to print (June cover date) it carried a 13-page tale about a man from Krypton who adopted the name Superman as he fought injustice. Then the main content was detective and general adventure, but soon superheroes became the mainstay, and Superman has appeared in those august pages for 65 years. This celebratory 64-page issue contains art by at least 10 different artists as it does a 'this is your life' looking back at the effect that Superman has had in his 65 years in the DC Universe. Landmark issues always inspire higher interest and sales; this will be no exception, as well as being damn good. **Sales 5/5 Quality 5/5**

Paul Grist has been writing and drawing his own titles for nigh on 10 years, and up until now has self published via his own Dancing Elephant Press label. All this time his stories have been strong, with a unique and British take on the detective genre in **Kane**, and superhero genre in **Jack Staff**, aptly described as Britain's Greatest Hero. With his move to Image for the relaunch of **Jack Staff**, colour at last invades the pages. A quick synopsis is that after a 20-year absence Jack Staff has returned and the stories involve secret agents, conspiracies and mysticism. Paul has adopted a novel anthology-style approach to his storytelling and maybe this move will garner him the exposure that he deserves. **Sales 5/5 Quality 5/5**

There is just one new release from Marvel this month, **Rawhide Kid** #1, a MAX Comics title. This suits me just fine as their current lineup of titles is very, very strong and allowing sales and interest to develop in these is far better than diluting interest with a whole slew of new titles. However, what a good choice of new series, a Western, currently a most under used genre. Ron Zimmerman is scripting but the really fabulous news is that legendary artist John Severin is providing the art. Retailers: don't get caught out by under ordering. **Sales 4/5 Quality 5/5**

With 21 years of comic retail experience as Ace Comics, Biff has also produced his ***Illuminations*** *monthly fanzine for 19 years before moving it to the web.*

+ John Floyd) Checkmate has had its missions in Gotham thwarted time and again by Batman, and the covert agency has had enough. But when a dangerous situation within the Checkmate ranks forces David Said to enlist outside help, the target is the Huntress. 40pg . $2.75

Birds of Prey 52 (Gilbert Hernandez & Casey Jones) As Oracle's torture comes to a grisly end, Canary uncovers the truth behind the Elemental Monster and saves the day. $2.50

Black Sun 6 (of 6; Marc Andreyko & Trevor Scott; *WildStorm)* With demons running rampant, it's everything Maggie Sun can do to keep herself alive, much less help anybody else. Mature. $2.95

The Flash 195 (Geoff Johns & Scott Kolins + Doug Hazlewood) Iron Heights, the Keystone City penitentiary that houses most of its supervillains and rogues, has turned its inmates loose, and now the repercussions begin. $2.25

Forever Maelstrom 4 (of 6; Howard Chaykin + David Tischman & John Lucas + Eduardo Barreto) Forever and his friends find themselves in yet another 21st century, this time one where untold numbers of deities face the threat of Ragnarok! But a saviour is at hand – or paw – in the form of Forever's talking timber wolf, Fenris. $2.95

new **JSA: The Unholy Three** 1 (of 2; Dan Jolley + Tony Harris & Harris + Ray Snyder; *Elseworlds)* Two ex-KGB operatives code-named Parasite and Steelwolf are killing American covert agents in Berlin, and the Unholy Three must stop them before they find the Trigger, a mystery device that could end all life on Earth. 64pg $6.95

Lucifer 35 *(Come to Judgment* 2 of 2; Mike Carey & Peter Gross & Ryan Kelly; *Vertigo)* Solomon's investigation into Elaine Belloc's strange death brings him face to face with a murderer who may be immune to God's justice. Mature readers. $2.50

one-shot **Nightwing: The Hunt for Oracle** (Chuck Dixon & various; tpbk) The entire *The Hunt for Oracle* storyline featured in Nightwing #41-46 and Birds of Prey #20-21. Blüdhaven's deadliest crime boss – Blockbuster – is on a seek-and-destroy mission, and his target is Oracle! 192pg $14.95

The Power Company 13 (Kurt Busiek & Tom Grummett + Prentis Rollins) When the devastating threat of Dr Polaris and the Cadre stands revealed, the Power Company must choose – do they fight, even though they have no client, or ignore the danger in order to pursue paying work? $2.75

one-shot **Preacher: Dead or Alive – The Collected Covers** (Garth Ennis & Glenn Fabry; *Vertigo)* The covers that made Preacher stand out from the pack, collected in one volume. 192pg $19.95

Robin 111 (Jon Lewis & Pete Woods + Andrew Pepoy) Robin learns the terrible news that burdens Spoiler, and in the process discovers a horrible secret from her past. $2.25

Supergirl 79 (Peter David & Ed Benes + Alex Lei) Linda winds up living someone else's life – that of the Silver Age Supergirl! $2.50

new **Superman: Metropolis** 1 (of 12; Chuck Austen & Danijel Zezelj) Follow Jimmy Olsen on the job in the high-tech world of Metropolis, where the Tech once again is gaining sentience and transforming the inhabitants of the City of Tomorrow. $2.95

new **Thundercats: The Return** 1 (of 5; Ford Lytle Gilmore & Ed Benes + Joe Pimentel; *WildStorm)* When Lion-O – imprisoned for the last half-decade but unaware of the passage of time – is rescued from captivity, he emerges into a Thundera plundered by evil! Can the King of the Thundercats return the team to its former glory? $2.95

one-shot **Wildcats: Battery Park** (Joe Casey & Sean Phillips + Steve Dillon; *WildStorm)* Reprints issues #20-28 of the saga of the former WildCats – a broken team of soldiers with no war left to fight. 224pg $17.95

Y – The Last Man 8 *(Cycles* 3 of 5; Brian K. Vaughan & Pia Guerra + José Marzan, Jr; *Vertigo)* In the mysterious town of Marrisville, the last man on Earth finally finds true romance. Unfortunately for Yorick, it's not with his beloved girlfriend, who's still trapped on the other side of the planet! Mature readers. $2.95

Marvel

Amazing Spider-Man 50 (J. Michael Straczynski & John Romita Jr + Scott Hanna) Peter Parker and Mary Jane make the big decision! $2.25

Captain Marvel 6 (Peter David & ChrisCross + Chris Sotomayor) The concluding chapter of the first story. $2.25

Exiles Vol. 3: Out of Time (Judd Winick & Mike McKone & J. Calafiore; tpbk) The reality-hopping Exiles run into the team known as Weapon X, Mimic faces off against Namor, and Morph is forced to host his own TV show. Collects Exiles #12-19! 192pg $17.99

Marville 6 (Bill Jemas & M.D. Bright + Paul Neary) Bill Jemas reveals his plan to give out $100,000 of Marvel's money to Marville readers. $2.25

New X-Men 137 (Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely) Who controls the Xavier Institute – the teachers or the Omega Gang? $2.25

Shang Chi: Master of Kung Fu 6 (of 6; Doug Moench & Paul Gulacy + Jimmy Palmiotti; *Max Comics)* Mature readers. $2.99

Soldier X 8 (Darko Macan & Igor Kordey) What impact will Nathan Summers have on the Askani religion? $2.25

Spider-Man: Legend of the Spider-Clan 5 (of 5; Kaare Andrews & Skott Young) Spider-Man, Venom, Black Cat, Daredevil, Elektra and the Green Goblin collide in this action-packed finale. $2.25

Thor 60 (Dan Jurgens & Joe Bennett) A new storyline begins – exploring the dark consequences of the Thunder God's actions. $2.25

Thunderbolts 76 (John Arcudi & Francisco Ruiz Velasco) This is what happens to supervillains without hope. Take a voyeuristic look at a world of bloody fights in abandoned warehouses, the lure of easy money, and the desperate smell of sweaty losers. $2.25

Truth: Red, White & Black 4 (of 6; Robert Morales & Kyle Baker) In the tradition of Origin, Marvel reveals the secret history of Captain America. $3.50

Ultimate X-Men Vol. 4: Hellfire & Brimstone (Mark Millar & Adam Kubert + Kaare Andrews; tpbk) Just as existence for the X-Men settles back to normal, Jean Grey's life shifts to the bizarre as she experiences strange visions – of a giant flaming bird. Collects Ultimate X-Men #21-25! 144pg $12.99

Wolverine 186 (Frank Tieri & Sean Chen) You saw what Frank Castle did to Logan in Punisher #16-17 – now you'll see how far Wolverine is willing to go for a little payback! $2.25

X-Treme X-Men 21 (Chris Claremont & Salvador Larroca) A murderer is on the loose and it's up to the X-Treme team to find the killer. $2.99

ON SALE FROM

FEB 26

Dark Horse

Astro Boy Vol 12 (Osamu Tezuka; tpbk) In this volume, check out *Roboid, The Eyes of Christ, Rejuvenating Gas,* and *Space Broadcast.* 224pg b&w $9.95

Buffy the Vampire Slayer 54: *(Viva Las Buffy* 4 of 4; Fabian Nicieza & Scott Lobdell + Cliff Richards) Wrapping up this, the first in a series of stories depicting events that occurred before everyone's favourite Slayer made her way to the happy little Hellmouth of Sunnydale. $2.99

new **Hellboy: Anthology** 1 (John Cassaday & Fabian Nicieza + Andi Watson) The world of Mike Mignola is brought to life by the best artists in comics. John Cassaday (Captain America) provides the stunning cover, as well as two stories in this kick-off issue. $2.99

Kiss 7 (Scott Lobdell & Peter Vale) The hottest young girl on the Lower East Side's been invited to a rave, but it turns out she's the only guest – and the main course. $2.99

Lone Wolf 2100 #8 (Mike Kennedy & Francisco Ruiz Velasco) The search for Itto and Diasy has grown so desperate that the Cygnat Owari corporation decides to take matters firmly in their own hands, dismissing the tracker Will Prescott from his duties so that the mysterious and deadly Belladonna can prove her skills. $2.99

The Nevermen: Streets of Blood 2 (Phil Amara & Guy Davis + Dan Jackson) To end Mr Winterbone's icy reign of terror, the Nevermen have got to find out who this creep is and how he knows so much about their past. $2.99

one-shot **Star Wars: A Valentine Story** (Judd Winick & Paul Chadwick) Set during the days leading up to The Empire Strikes Back, Han Solo and Princess Leia find themselves trapped together on a downed starship, lost in the frozen wastelands of Hoth as a storm rages around them. And while the snow flies outside the ship, the sparks fly inside. $3.50

Super Manga Blast! 30 (various) Pai and Yakumo are feeling the heat, locked in a battle of mythic proportions, and it looks like they won't make it out of this one alive. b&w 128pg $5.99

Usagi Yojimbo 64 (Stan Sakai) The rabbit ronin travelling party grows by one, as Usagi and his young companion Jotaro are joined on the road by a jovial old priest named Tomago. b&w 24pg $2.99

DC Comics

American Century 23 *(Tramps* 2 of 2; Howard Chaykin + David Tischman & Luke Ross + John Stokes; *Vertigo)* The local prostitute needs a fix, the local fixer needs an alibi, and Harry needs a one-way ticket out of Charity, Ohio – a seedy little town full of big secrets and bigger lies, where people like Harry wind up dead. Mature readers. $2.75

Batman 612 (Jeph Loeb & Jim Lee + Scott Williams) Batman vs Superman, toe-to-toe! How do you stop the Man of Steel? Who can outwit the World's Greatest Detective? What could bring these uneasy allies to the brink of war. $2.25

Batman/Aliens II 3 (of 3; Ian Edginton & Staz Johnson + James Hodgkins) Batman's been imprisoned in a secret government base, but even if he escapes to face his mysterious abductor, he'll have to battle a fearsome cadre of super-soldiers biologically engineered from the DNA of captured Aliens and Arkham's most notorious psychopaths! 48pg . $5.95

one-shot **Batman: Child of Dreams** (Kia Asamiya; hbk) *See Close-Up, below.*

Batman: Gotham Adventures 59 (Scott Peterson & Tim Levins + Terry Beatty) A financial scandal rocks Waynecorp, and Bruce Wayne is determined to get to the bottom of it, even if he needs to get a little help from Batman! $2.25

Catwoman 16 (Ed Brubaker & Cameron Stewart) The fates of those closest to Selina are resolved, but now her future is in question. Black Mask has struck back at Catwoman in every possible way. Now the Feline Fatale is on a one-way, high-impact course of revenge, but Black Mask is waiting for Catwoman – and he's getting help from someone very close to her. $2.50

Dexter's Laboratory 34 (Robbie Busch + Ian Boothby & Scott Roberts + Matt Jenkins) When Dexter makes the perfect snowflake, its very existence turns the world topsy-turvy! $2.25

Fight for Tomorrow 6 (Brian Wood & Denys Cowan + Kent Williams; *Vertigo)* Ced's quest for Christy comes to an end as the final confrontation between student and master erupts in the New York City underground. But with Sivan's power gone and the illegal fight organisation destroyed, what will happen to Ced when he comes face to face with the girl he thought he lost forever? Mature readers. $2.50

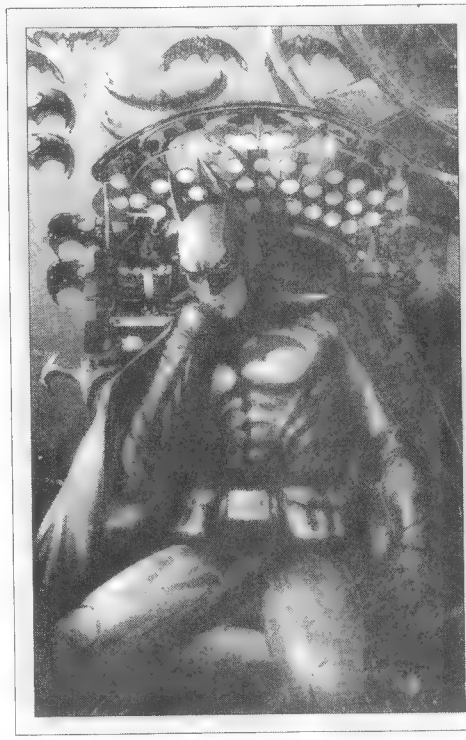
The Filth 9 (of 13; Grant Morrison & Chris Weston + Gary Erskine; *Vertigo)* What is The Hand? Who are Man Green/Man Yellow? Where is The Crack? Well... The Dark Secrets of planet Earth unfold for Ned Slade as he begins his final initiation as a garbage man and faces the ultimate revelation of life, death, identity – and the Beyond. Mature readers. $2.95

Global Frequency 5 (of 12; Warren Ellis & Jon J Muth; *WildStorm)* In the snow-swept wilds of Norway, a diverse team of specialists on the Global Frequency has assembled a command post. An entire town has lost its mind, and Miranda Zero intends on helping them find it. $2.95

one-shot **Green Lantern: The Power of Ion** (Judd Winick & various) Collecting Green Lantern #142-150. When Kyle Rayner faces off against his evil opposite, Oblivion, he expends all the energy of his Power Ring, shedding his GL identity and becoming the more powerful Ion. 226pg $14.95

Hellblazer 181 (Mike Carey & Jock; *Vertigo)* After an ambiguous tip-off from a dead informant, John Constantine takes steps to protect himself against a demonic attack. But when the ambush comes from an unexpected direction, his magic defences fail him, and the only thing he has to fall back on is his knowledge of darkest London. Mature readers. $2.75

JLA 78 (Joe Kelly & Doug Mahnke + Tom Nguyen) With the new line-up in place, the Justice League intercepts a malevolent alien signal that threatens a nearby planetary system. Now the JLA must make the gut-wrenching decision: to maintain neutrality in a galactic conflict or to interfere in foreign politics by conducting a preemptive strike of its own. . $2.25



close-up

Batman: Child of Dreams

DC Comics

Writer/Artist: Kia Asamiya

When a crime spree takes the Dark Knight from the familiar turf of Gotham City across the globe to Tokyo, he finds himself locked in mortal combat with his greatest enemies – but are they what they appear to be? Are they, for example, bizarre simulations brought on by a new drug that has hit the streets of Gotham? Just a thought. This tale was first serialised in Japan over a whole year, and it is now collected here for the first time. 352pg $24.95

ON SALE FEBRUARY 26

JLA/The Spectre: Soul War 2 (of 2; J.M. DeMatteis & Darryl Banks + Paul Neary) The JLA, powerless to combat the terrifying extra-dimensional entity known as the Trans, reluctantly agrees to accept help from the Spectre. 48pg $5.95

The Legion 17 *(Revival of the Fittest* 1 of 2; Dan Abnett + Andy Lanning & Alejandro Barrionuevo + Lanning) M'onel is escorting the dormant body of Ra's Al Ghul to a secure facility when he receives word that Sensor has suffered life-threatening injuries. $2.50

Out There 16 (Brian Augustyn & Humberto Ramos and Sandra Hope; *Cliffhanger)* The entire town of El Dorado City has been exiled to the terrifying otherworld known as the Draedrealm, and now Mark, Jess, Casey and Zach are trapped there as well. $2.95

The Powerpuff Girls 35 (Robbie Busch & Ricardo Garcia Fuentes + Mike DeCarlo) Bubbles brings a froggy friend home from a field trip and makes a frog-hunting villain hopping mad *It's Sleazy Being Green.* $2.25

Promethea 25 (Alan Moore & J.H. Williams III + Mick Gray; *America's Best Comics) A Higher Court* presents a fantastical trial in the Immateria, presided over by a strange judge and jury, set up to determine who shall be the one true Promethea: Stacia or Sophie. $2.95

The Resistance 6 (Jimmy Palmiotti and Justin Gray & Juan Santacruz and Francis Portela; *WildStorm)* The fight for survival continues with explosive results as our battered heroes make a desperate attempt to rescue Surge from Sampizi and the GCC. $2.95

one-shot **Shade, the Changing Man: The American Scream** (Peter Milligan & Chris Bachalo + Mark Pennington; *Vertigo;* tpbk) *See Close-Up, above.*

Superman 190 (Steven T. Seagle & Scott McDaniel + Andy Owens) One of Metropolis' robots goes rogue, mistakenly thinking it's a real police officer. Superman must confront this would-be man of steel before it takes the law into its own hands! $2.25

final issue **The Titans** 50 (Tom Peyer & Barry Kitson + James Pascoe) If the Earth is to survive, the Titans must destroy the Consensus – and the alien creature that gives the Consensus its collective opinion. But it won't be easy, since the entirety of a brainwashed humanity doesn't share the Titans' point of view! $2.75

Wildcats Version 3.0 #7 (Joe Casey & Dustin Nguyen + Richard Friend; *WildStorm)* Grifter learns a few tricks about corporate manoeuvring, while Dolby learns exactly what it means to be an employee of the Halo Corporation. Mature readers. $2.95

Wonder Woman 189 (Walter Simonson & Jerry Ordway + P. Craig Russell) Wonder Woman has vanished without a trace. Bereft of her memories, deprived of her gods-given abilities, and without her familiar costume, lasso and bracelets, Diana must fight off a horde of monstrous foes and find her way back to Earth from the Cryptocombs. $2.25

Marvel

Agent X 8 (Buddy Scalera & Mitchell Breitweiser + Mark McKenna) Kicking off a two-parter. $2.25

Avengers 64 (Geoff Johns & Ivan Reis + Oclair Albert) The Falcon soars into the spotlight in this standalone prologue to next month's *Red Zone* saga. . $2.25

Daredevil 44 (Brian Michael Bendis & Alex Maleev; *Marvel Knights)* Matt Murdock's defence of his secret identity takes a huge turn for the worse . $2.99

Fantastic Four 66 (Mark Waid & Mark Buckingham) $2.25

Hulk/Wolverine: 6 Hours 3 (of 4; Bruce Jones & Scott Kolins) The green goliath and the feral mutant only have six hours to rescue a woman and a boy from two desperate drug dealers – but will they be able to control their infamous tempers to get the job done? $2.99

Paradise X: Ragnarok 2 (of 2; Jim Krueger & Tom Yeates) A turning point in the Paradise X saga. $2.99

Peter Parker, Spider-Man 53 (Zeb Wells & Francisco Herrera + Wayne Faucher) $2.25

Ultimate Spider-Man Vol 2 (Brian Michael Bendis & Mark Bagley; tpbk) The Green Goblin has discovered Peter Parker's secret identity, putting the lives of all of his loved ones at risk! Collects Ultimate Spider-Man #14-27 – along with all-new, behind-the-scenes extras. 336pg $29.99

Ultimate War 4 (of 4; Mark Millar & Chris Bachalo + Tim Townsend) The US Super Squad battles the mutant inheritors of the Earth in all-out combat – so expect casualties! $2.25

Weapon X #6 (Frank Tieri & Georges Jeanty + Dexter Vines) The Director has a special mission for Sabretooth. $2.25

X-Men Unlimited 42 (various) More mutant goings-on. 48pg $3.50

X-Statix Vol I (Peter Milligan & Mike Allred; tpbk) And the only threat to the X-Statix runaway success is the rival group of flashy new mutants picked by the public! With the world watching, can the X-Statix reclaim their rightful place in the spotlight? Hosted by Davina McCall. Collecting X-Statix #1-5! 128pg $11.99

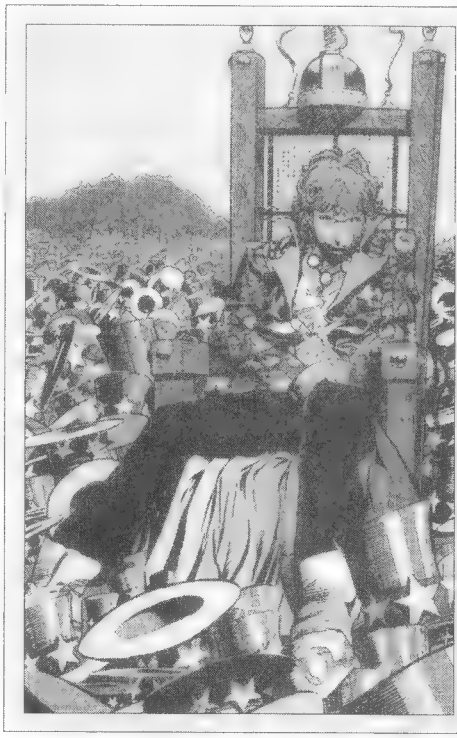
X-Statix 8 (Peter Milligan & Mike Allred) $2.25

RELEASED & ON SALE IN

FEBRUARY

Aardvark Vanaheim

Cerebus 287 *(Latter Days* 22 of 35; Dave Sim & Gerhard) Just when you thought there couldn't be another instalment of *Chasing YHWH* another one flaps along. 13 issues to go. Hang in there. $2.25



close-up

Shade, The Changing Man: The American Scream

Vertigo

Writer: Peter Milligan

Artists: Chris Bachalo + Mark Pennington

Collecting the first six issues of The American Scream puts a unique spin on the visitor from the Meta Zone created by Steve Ditko. Kathy George relives the horror of her parents' murder when Shade arrives from his dimension only to take up residence in the body of the man who killed them. 168pg .. $17.95

ON SALE FEBRUARY 26

Abstract Studios

Strangers In Paradise Vol III #57 (Terry Moore) Somebody wants Katchoo dead – somebody she knows and trusts. But who? Katchoo plays a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse with an adversary she can't see. 24pg b&w $2.95

Amaze Ink/ Slave Labor

Charm School 7 (Elizabeth Watasin) It's Sweetheart's Day, and instead of spending it with Bunny, Dean is racing Lucius through the Demonic Gates! Mature readers. 24pg b&w $2.95

Highway 13 #9 (Les McClaine) When honest, hard-working folk are afraid to walk the streets for fear of a mummy attack, one man stands in their favour: El Escarabajo Mortal. 24pg b&w ... $2.95

Nightmares & Fairytales 4 (Serena Valentino) Sitting in the graveyard where Dominique left her, Annabelle recounts the story of Snow White. Only in this one, the evil step mother takes the heart of the child in hopes of regaining her beauty. 24pg b&w $2.95

Skaggy The Lost 2 (of 4; Igor Baranko) No one fights harder in battle than Skaggy the Lost, and in this issue he gets his chance to prove it when his Viking warriors face off against the Mayan army. Mature readers. 40pg b&w $3.50

Antarctic Press

Dragon Arms 3 (David Hutchison) After releasing Stone from the control of the Majin, the battle-hardened group heads for the first confrontation with the Dragon King Ravenesque. b&w $3.50

Gold Digger 40 (Fred Perry) The Lich King's plans have finally been revealed. After using the hatred of his former comrades, Gyphon, Dreadwing and Brendan, to refuel his power, the Lich King makes his move. 24pg $3.50

How To Draw Manga 22 (various) Artists like Ben Dunn, Fred Perry, Rod Espinosa, Joe Wight, and David Hutchison continue to present a comprehensive guide in mastering the manga style. b&w $4.95

Killbox 3 (Brian Denham) As the lost US Marine Corps tank refuels in Iraq, a sniper's bullet punctures their fuel line, dousing them in the flammable liquid. Bad start. b&w $5.00

Neotopia 2 (Rod Espinosa) Compassionate ruler Nalyn (who is a little on the stealthy side) is kidnapped. Despite Nalyn wrecking his recent invention, Philios reluctantly leads a daring rescue mission to save her from the Krosion Emperor's dungeons. $3.95

Ninja High School 103 (Robby Bevard & Katie Bair) Yumei has found demon boy's weakness and fully intends to exploit it. But first, she must battle a crazed girl whose obsession with wrestling has taken it to new levels of danger, cheating and wackiness. b&w $3.50

new **Specter 7** #1 (Craig Babiar) In the near future, Earth is plagued by a series of terrorist attacks led by the alien Gastuul Empire. The troubled times give rise to an elite, anti terrorist task force of seven young friends. This is their story. $4.95

Warrior Nun Areala 15 (Craig Babiar) As Areala and Princess Ki'Ree venture deeper into the forests of Black Crest Falls, they discover an ancient dwelling that holds clues to the plague's origins. 24pg b&w $3.50

Avatar Press

Alan Moore's The Courtyard 2 (Alan Moore & Jacen Burrows) Aldo Sax has an amazing service record with the FBI. His legendary skills at piercing together the most baffling of cases has got him assigned to what may be his most confusing case yet. He has almost zero leads to go on, but the one hunch he does have takes him from a concert by the Ulther Cats to the mysterious courtyard in front of the home of a purported drug dealer. Mature readers. b&w 2 of 2 ..... $3.50

Black Tide 4 (Debbie Bishop & Mike Miller) Secrets are revealed and the hidden realm of the Draconian Warrior is unveiled as Kaila risks everything to help Justin understand the conflicts of his past. $3.50

one-shot **Hellina** 0 (Robert Lugibihl & Rafa Lopez) Sandra wanted nothing more than to go to college and move through life like a normal person. But a sudden abduction by a demonic cult takes her down a path she never expected as she is turned in the assassin Hellina. Mature readers. b&w $3.50

Jungle Fantasy 2 (Ron Adrian & Sean Shaw) With her ship wrecked and her rescue party never coming, Fauna is going to have to adjust to life in a Jurassic world. Mature readers. b&w bi-monthly $3.50

one-shot **Shi: Pandora's Box** ½ (Robert Lugibihl & Juan Jose Ryp) Shi's quest for passage to Europe takes her into dangerous territory as she must unravel the mystery of a monster of legend in order to retrieve a mystic arrow that she can trade for freedom. b&w 16pg $3.95

new **Shi: Pandora's Box** 1 (Robert Lugibihl & Juan Jose Ryp) Desperate for passage to Europe, Tori No Shi is willing to trade her services as an assassin for passage on a boat. All she has to do is kill a stranger she is told is an immortal demon. b&w $3.50

one-shot **Steven Grant's Mortal Souls** Vol 1 (Steven Grant & Philip Xavier; tpbk) Pursuing an unpredictable killer, police detective Eric Sharpe watches his life turn into a waking nightmare as he gains The Sight" – and he discovers Qelipoth (bodies without souls) not only exist, but they are everywhere. And now they want him dead. Mature readers. b&w 72pg $9.95

Warren Ellis' Scars 4 (of 6; Warren Ellis & Jacen Burrows) John Cain has been faced with the most horrific murder of a child, one who was taken apart and neatly piled in boxes. As he struggles to cope with it, he also slowly moves down the path of evidence, trying to piece together how the horror happened. Mature readers. b&w $3.50

Bongo Comics

Bart Simpson Comics 11 (Bates + McCann & Smith) Bart sends away far an actual, full-scale nuclear submarine, and receives a mail-order bride instead. $2.50

Simpsons Comics 79 (Boothby & Ortiz) Grampa gets his seasons confused and begins to spin some twisted Yuletide tales, much to the confusion of the kids, but much to the relief of the writer who had too many Christmas tales, and no idea what to do for Valentine's. $2.50

CGE

new **Brath** 1 (Chuck Dixon & Andrea Di Vito + Brad Vancata) Brath Mac Garen is the warchief of a clan that rules the last free land in the known world. They are pitted against the numberless legions of an evil emperor who will stop at nothing to enslave them. $2.95

new **Chimera** 1 (of 4; Ron Marz & Brandon Peterson) On a distant ice world, a young woman with a special gift hides from her past. But the rulers of the Chimeran Imperium, a brutal intergalactic empire, will stop at nothing to find her. 48pg $2.95

Crux 23 (Chuck Dixon & Steve Epting) The human race has vanished without a trace! Five mighty Atlanteans awaken from the sleep of ages to solve the disappearance of an entire species. But to answer this riddle, their leader

Capricia must confront an invading universe of evil, and discover the shocking fate that destiny has in store for her. $2.95

The First 28 (Barbara Kesel & Andy Smith) Driven apart by immortal intrigue and titanic treachery, the rival houses of the godlike First must reunite to avert doomsday. Heirs to world-shaking power, Persha and Seahn each seek to lead the pantheon toward a glorious destiny. But will it be Persha's Golden Age, or Seahn's Epoch of Evil? .. $2.95

Forge 11 (various; tpbk) Wulf and Aiko show just how dangerous they can be in a perilous mission to rescue Wulf's girlfriend from the mad Emperor Mitsumune's castle. 192pg $7.95

Meridian 33 (Barbara Kesel & Steve McNiven) A princess's fairy-tale childhood is shattered by the death of her father, and a gift of terrifying power. $2.95

Mystic 33 (Tony Bedard & Aaron Lopresti) Party-girl Giselle Villard couldn't care less about magic until a mysterious symbol on her palm made her the mystic protector of planet Ciress. Now she must mature into her new role before a legion of newfound enemies can destroy her! $2.95

Negation 15 (Tony Bedard & Paul Pelletier) Trapped in a twisted universe ruled by the Negation Empire, an ordinary man named Obregon Kaine pits his extraordinary cunning and courage against the greatest foe imaginable. $2.95

Out All Night – Mystic Vol. 4 (various; tpbk) Who was Giselle before greatness was thrust upon her? Find out as our heroine falls back in with her old party crowd and journeys through the criminal underworld of Nouveau City. Trace the fall and rise of our troubled champion in Out All Night. $15.95

The Path 12 (Ron Marz & Bart Sears) The holy monk Obo-san embodied the feudal ideals of piety, honour and duty. Then his samurai brother called upon the gods to save his nation, only to be slain by to the petty, spiteful deities. Now, armed with the Weapon of Heaven, Obo-san seeks the death of the gods who betrayed him and the rebirth of his own shattered faith. $2.95

Route 666 #9 (Tony Bedard & Karl Moline) Is Cassie Starkweather a crazed killer or a psychic saviour? Wanted for murder, Cassie is an escaped mental patient who claims to have uncovered a vast supernatural invasion. As she fights a lonely war to keep the monsters and evil spirits from stealing innocent souls, one question haunts her: Are the creatures she fights real, or are they her own inner demons? $2.95

Ruse 17 (Scott Beatty & Butch Guice) In times of trouble, the city of Partington looks to its favourite son – the greatest detective ever known. But just who are Simon Archard and his lovely partner, Emma Bishop? $2.95

Scion 33 (Ron Marz & Jim Fern + Don Hillsman) A peace summit between Bron and King Dane ends with a shocking turn! $2.95

The Silent Partner – Ruse Vol 2 (various; tpbk) Simon is the greatest detective his world has ever known, but he was previously apprentice to another detective – the cold and calculating Malcolm Lightbourne. Once thought dead, Lightbourne has returned with a vengeance of climactic proportions! $2.95

Sigil 33 (Chuck Dixon & Scot Eaton + Andrew Hennessey) After centuries of interstellar warfare, the humans of the Planetary Union have a new weapon against the man-eating Saurians. He is Samandahl Rey, galactic mercenary, who wields the world-changing power of the glowing Sigil burned into his chest. $2.95

Sojourn 20 (Ron Marz & Greg Land) Now alone and carrying the weight of guilt for fallen comrades, Arwyn continues her quest south toward the desert wastes of Oudubai. Awaiting her are an encounter with deadly roadside brigands, as well as another meeting with the mysterious Neven. $2.95

Way of the Rat 10 (Chuck Dixon & Jeff Johnson + Tom Ryder) The Emperor Dragon is loose in the streets of Zhumar and only Boon Sai Hong can hope to stop him before the city is turned to rubble. Has Princess Zheng returned to the city only to die with the rest? $2.95

DreamWave

Arkanium 5 (Easton + Thomas & Martin + Walker) Rowan, reeling from the constant defeats and the revelation that Marissa is alive, decides to go on the offensive. $2.95

Fate of the Blade 6 (Sarracini + Yamen & Sander + Bergvist) The Ladies of Eden move to attack the Eve Inc building, but something major stands in their way. Mature readers. $2.95

new **Sandscape** 1 (Kato + Kang & Sander) Cornered by the mysterious Paren sniper, Val is forced to fight her way free and escape Sapar City before it is completely occupied by enemy forces. $2.95

Transformers: Armada 8 (various) Everything changes for the Earthbound Mini-Cons when a mysterious object makes planet-fall. $2.95

Transformers: The War Within 5 (Furman + Figueroa & To) The action heats up as war rages on all fronts. Starscream prepares to activate Megatron's mecha-forming machinery, transforming Cybertron irrevocably, and dooming the Autobots in the process. $2.95

Fantagraphics

one-shot **C. Tyler's Ink Party** (Carol Tyler) Funny and eclectic gathering of Tyler's 15 best short stories. They're mostly autobiographical, stirring wry wit in with self-deprecating humour. Mature readers. 72pg b&w $10.95

one-shot **No More Shaves** (David Greenberger & various) Collecting together the comical wisdom of a series of interviews with the residents of the Duplex Nursing Home in Boston, US, where Greenberger worked in the 1970s and 1980s. 144pg b&w $18.95

new **Pogostick** 1 (Al Columbia & Ethan Persoff) Showing you the empty world of Audrey, a mostly incompetent member of a design firm who doesn't want managerial responsibilities. Mature. b&w ... $4.95

new **Shouldn't You Be Working?** 1 (Johnny Ryan) Telling the tales of what Johnny Ryan did while on the job at a Seattle urological clinic. Graphic, crude, and general schooly. Mature readers. 80pg .. $5.95

one-shot **The Wipeout** (Francesco Ghermandi) *See Close-Up, below.*

Image

Age of Bronze 16 (Eric Shanower) Achilles is summoned once more to join the war against the Trojans. His father bids him good-bye with gifts, but his mother, Thetis, isn't so supportive. She can only see that her son is rushing to his death. b&w $3.50

new **Aria: The Uses of Enchantment** 1 (Brian Holguin & Lan Medina) When a mysterious invitation literally drops into Kildare's lap, she is led to a remarkable discovery in a genuine magical kingdom hidden away in the Catskill Mountains. $2.95

Athena Inc 6 (Brian Haberlin & Jay Anacleto) All hell breaks loose. All Morgan Castle's plans hedge on this one final deal Once made, his and Athena Inc.'s futures are more than secured. The stage is set. 48pg $4.95

Battle of the Planets 7 (Munier Sharrieff & Wilson Tortosa; *Top Cow*) As the fallout of Spectra's takeover of Central West is felt everywhere, the world waits for the military to take action. But they can't, for fear of Spectra using a long-abandoned doomsday weapon buried miles beneath the city. ... $2.99

Clockmaker 2 (Jim Krueger & Matt Smith + Brett Weldele) Astrid has no choice but to become the new Clockmaker while the mystery of the death of her brother and father deepens. 16pg $2.50

one-shot **Fathom** ½ (Michael Turner + Olivia Chadha & Turner + Jonathan Sibal; *Top Cow*) Cannon's father is passing away and reveals to his son the story of the family's legacy and the responsibility that comes with it. 24pg $2.99

Firebreather 2 (Phil Hester & Andy Kuhn) Like most children of divorce, Duncan spends every other weekend with his dad, but since his dad can stomp skyscrapers and his place is a hidden lair in an abandoned nuclear test site, it takes a super soldier like Col Booshwa Barnes just to drop him off. $2.95

G.I. Joe 15 (Josh Blaylock & Brandon Badeaux + John Larter) Bazooka, Rock N Roll, Alpine, and Mutt have gotten themselves into some serious trouble. None other than Cobra Commander is headed for the quiet suburb of Delhi Hills, to keep tabs on his new puppet community, and he's not going to be very happy to find them there. ... $2.95

new **Grrl Scouts: Work Sucks** 1 (Jim Mahfood) In order to keep a low profile and avoid any further heat, the Grrls make a decision to lay low. This includes stepping away from their duties as three of the biggest drug dealers in town. So how will they get by and survive without their main source of income? b&w $2.95

new **Hammer of the Gods: Hammer Hits China** 1 (Michael Avon Oeming + Mark Obie Wheatley & Oeming) Modi has become a berserker – it is almost as if he has a death wish – to die in battle. And he just might get his wish as the Gods send him on a quest to cross the world, find Odin and set him free. ..... $2.95.

Hellspawn 22 (Steve Niles & Ben Templesmith; *TMP*) Dark days enshroud the Hellspawn as he must choose between two loves. Now in a state near mortal, with a secret shadow in his midst, the Hellspawn has found two loves: one a warrior from centuries past; the other, a dead girl rescued from the bowels of Hell. $2.95

Holy Terror 3 (Jason Caskey & Phil Hester + Jim Woodyard) Will Max lose the battle for his very soul? Will the Backbiter bring Tezcatlipoca back to rule the world? $2.95

Hawaiian Dick 3 (B. Clay Moore & Steven Griffin) Byrd and Mo spend a stormy night tracking a zombie, walking in and out of traps set by the cunning and eccentric Bishop Masaki, and learning the chilling truth about the mysterious women they've found themselves entangled with. $2.95

Invincible 2 (Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker) Mark has come down with a case of insomnia, and while most people would trot down to the living room to watch infomercials, Mark, being a superhero, has a few more entertaining options. $2.95

new **Jack Staff** 1 (Paul Grist) Twenty years ago the British army developed Rage. 240lbs of pure destructive force. Then they set it loose on the streets of Castletown. Now, 20 years later the inhabitants of Castletown are suffering violent Rage Attacks. ... $2.95

new **Karza** 1 (Jim Krueger & Steve Kurth + Ray Snyder) When Ryan Archer was abducted and transported to the world of the Micronauts, he witnessed Baron Karza's tyranny first hand. Now, with the help of the enigmatic Time Traveller, he will learn how the megalomaniac became the monster he is today. $2.95

Liberty Meadows 30 (Frank Cho) Khan the Catfight returns for another epic battle with Julius and the boys as the great blizzard of the 21st century rages on. Frank slowly succumbs to Jen's seductive charms as Brandy hopelessly watches on. b&w $2.95

one-shot **Lovebunny and Mr Hell: A Day in the Love Life** (various) *See Close-Up on following page.*

Masters of the Universe 4 (of 4; Val Staples & Emiliano Santalucia + Marco Failla) The heroes of Eternia go toe to toe with the forces of evil. The very fate of Eternia hangs in the balance... as does He-Man's. $2.95

Micronauts 5 (Scott Wherle & EJ Su + Barb Shulz) Loyalties and allegiances are tested as Baron Karza's control over his city of Mechopolis falters. Ryan, Koriah the Galactic Defender and the band of revolutionaries make their final bid for escape. $2.95

one-shot **Noble Causes Vol 1: In Sickness & In Health** (Jay Faerber & various) This collection features all-new commentary by creator Jay Faerber, as well as a rare look at Patrick Gleason and John Wycough's 3-page tryout sequence, as well as a variant cover gallery and new pin-ups by various artists. 144pg $12.95

Paradigm 6 (Matt Cashel & Jeremy Haun + Elizabeth Jacobson) Following Ethan and Audrey's night of coping, Ethan realises people need to be told of what occurred in the metro two nights earlier. 40pg b&w $2.95

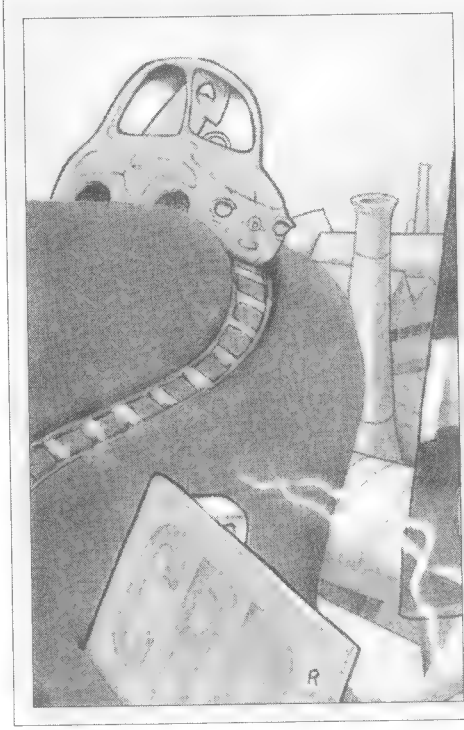
Powers 29 (Brian Michael Bendis & Mike Avon Oeming) What can two detectives do when one of the most powerful heroes decides to turn? $2.95

Rex Mundi 2 (Arvid Nelson & Eric Johnson) Master Physician Julien Saunière confronts the Holy Inquisition for the first time, in front of the smoking ruins of Father Marin's home. 24pg $2.95

Rising Stars: Bright 1 (Fiona Avery & Dan Jurgens + Jason Gorder; *Top Cow*) Listen as Matthew Bright tells the story of how in ran away in his memoirs, and learn how a Special can shine brightest when they're just being human. $2.99

one-shot **Rotogin: Junkbotz** 0 (Jason Lee & J. Korim) Three friends search out a quiet place to rest within the noise of the city. Looking upon the metropolis from their rooftop-resting place, they realise that they have box seats to an illegal robot battle tournament. 24pg $2.95

new **Sammy: Tourist Trap** 1 (Azad) Sammy breaks his



close-up

The Wipeout

Fantagraphics Books

Writer/Artist: Francesco Ghermandi

Jo Tartaglia, who works for a global cleaning products company, is putting the finishing touches on a revolutionary new fluid that will clean everything at once. When mixed with milk, though, it becomes a deadly poison. Nagged nearly to death by his wife, he falls in with the lovely Virgin Prune, a shady lady, who enlists him to get her out from under a villainous loan shark. Mature readers. 80pg b&w $5.95

ON SALE FEBRUARY

parole to take a gig in sunny Acapulco. However, unforeseen circumstances leave Sammy stranded south of the border fighting for his life. b&w . $2.95

new **Shadows** 1 (Jade Dodge & Matt Camp) Reports of a bigfoot attacking campers and residents have been coming in at an alarming rate. Why would a creature, known for its docile behaviour, turn vicious? .. $2.95

Spawn 131 (Brian Holguin + Todd McFarlane & Angel Medina + Danny Miki; *TMP)* Posing as a mercenary, Simmons travels halfway around the world. His purpose? To unleash Spawn's vengeance on the beast he helped to create. $2.95

Tech Jacket 4 (Robert Kirkman & E.J. Su) Zack must lead the Geldarian army against an armada of Kresh troops .Not bad for a kid that a short six months ago, had to be told to change his underwear. $2.95

Tomb Raider 28 (John Ney Reiber & Clarence Lansang+ Jonathan Sibal; *Top Cow)* Lara is lost in a half-world between yesterday and never, victim of a vengeful undead pharaoh's lust and malice—twenty-two bullets away from an eternity of horror. $2.99

Tomb Raider Journeys 10 (Fiona Avery & Manny Clark+ Marlo Alquiza; *Top Cow)* Lara is still on her quest to retrieve the Dream Spear from the underworld.$2.99

Venture 2 (Jay Faerber & Jamal Igle) After catching Joe using his superpowers in public, Reggie resorts to desperate measures in order to find him. ... $2.95

one-shot **Witchblade: Nottingham** (David Wohl & Keu Cha; *Top Cow)* Ian Nottingham travels to Japan on a soul searching journey but instead becomes a suspect in a murder investigation—and as the mystery of who the actual killer unfolds, Ian realises that his past truly is coming back to haunt him. $2.99

Oni Press

one-shot **Blue Monday: Nobody's Fool** (Chynna Clugston Major) Clover endures drunken louts on St Patrick's Day, and Victor gets caught playing goth-boy on April Fool's day. Mature readers. b&w $2.95

one-shot **Cheat** (Christine Norrie; graphic novel) Janey and Marc live a hectic lifestyle that constantly keeps them apart. Then Janey ends up in the arms of another man... Mature readers. 56pg b&w$5.95

Courtney Crumrin & The Coven of Mystics 3 (of 4; Ted Naifeh) As Courtney begins to unravel the conspiracy, her Uncle must defend a night thing unjustly accused of cursing a fellow witch. b&w $2.95

Kissing Chaos: Nonstop Beauty 4 (of 4; Arthur Dela Cruz) The teenage revolutionaries bring down their city in a violent explosion of art – while Ashley makes her final move to unload the nefarious computer file and start her life anew. Mature. 24pg b&w $2.95

One Plus One #5 (of 5; Neal Shaffer & Daniel Krall) Coulson has Eddie right where he wants him, but it's down to Leonard – the man who sees what we look like when we die – to confirm the fiendish plan was successful. Mature readers. b&w $2.95

Queen & Country 14 (Greg Rucka & Jason Alexander) Using an illicit tape of a billionaire's daughter, the French government hopes to secure an expensive contract. Can Tara prevent this dirty deal before the tape goes public? Mature readers. $2.95

one-shot **Shot Callerz** (Gary Phillips & Brett Weldele) Nea had it all – a man, a truckload of cash, and a fresh start. But then her boyfriend gunned her down. Now nothing will come between Nea and her revenge. Mature. 128pg b&w ... $11.95

Three Days In Europe 3 (of 5; Anthony Johnston & Mike Hawthorne) At the Paris Art Show, Jack has caught the attention of the seductive Vivienne, while across the Channel, Jill's on the arm of Pete Dollar, Jack's rock idol. Mature readers. b&w $2.95

close-up

Lovebunny and Mr Hell: A Day in the Love Life

Image Comics

Writer: Munier Sharrieff

Artist: Joe Chen

Follow Lovebunny and Mr Hell through a not-so-typical superhero day interpreted by three different creative teams. Through these different stories you'll watch the dysfunctional duo engage in superhero training on caffeine, house hunting with the Amish, and an evening of ex-boyfriend stalking. b&w $2.95

ON SALE FEBRUARY

Tokyopop

Akira Cinemanga Vol 2 (of 5; Katsuhiro Otomo) As Neo- Tokyo rises from the ashes Kaneda rallies his rag tag group against the city's secret military to save his friend. 160pg $14.99

Angelic Layer Vol 5 (of 5; CLAMP; graphic novel) Misaki Suzuhara is the star of the Angelic Layer scene. However, her bitter rival Arisu returns and is bent on revenge. 192pg b&w $9.99

new **Gatekeepers** Vol 1 (Keiji Gotoh; graphic novel) Ivaders have infiltrated the Earth. Our only hope of stopping them lies in the hands of the Gatekeepers like Shun Ukiya, a high school student with psychic powers. 192pg b&w $9.99

new **Kim Possible Cinemanga** Vol 1 (of 4; various; graphic novel) Recounting the adventures of a typical high school girl who just happens to save the world from evil villains at the same time. 100pg $7.99

Kodocha Sana's Stage Vol 6 (of 10; Miho Obana; graphic novel) The electric on-screen presence between Sana and Naozumi Kamura fuel a false rumour of romance that's printed in a tabloid magazine. Naozumi's fans are so incensed they attack Sana and break her leg. 176pg b&w $9.99

new **Lizzie McGuire Cinemanga** Vol 1 (of 4; various; graphic novel) The ordinary and not-so-ordinary adventures of a junior high school student and her two best friends as they try to deal with the ups and downs of school, popularity, boys, parents, and so on. 100pg $7.99

Miracle Girls Vol 8 (Nami Akimoto; tpbk) Toni and Mika receive a letter announcing Chris and Marie's engagement. Bewildered by this turn of events, they decide to journey to Diamas to rescue Chris. 192pg b&w $9.99

new **Peach Girl Sophomore Year** Vol 1 (Miwa Ueda; tpbk) Momo and her new boyfriend are living it up but Momo's sworn enemy plots to break up the happy couple. 192pg b&w .. $9.99

new **Reality Check** Vol 1 (of 4; Tavisha Wolfgarth & Rosearik Rikki) Collin Meeks is a PC wizard who cheishes his True Virtual Reality Helmet. However, his cat is also interested in the technology and invents a mischievous alter-ego. 100pg b&w $7.99

new **Rebirth** Vol 1 (Kang-Woo Lee; graphic novel) The story of Dark Magician Deshwitat Rudbich, a vampire who was sealed in limbo 300 years ago by the Light Magician Kalutika. Now is the time for vengeance. b&w $9.99

new **Scryed** Vol 1 (Yosuke & Yasunari Toda; graphic novel) When a new type of human – Alter-Users – becomes the centre of an unexplained phenomenon, an elite squad of soldier comes to keep the peace. Or so it seems. b&w $9.99

Viz

The All-New Tenchi Muyô! Part 2 #5 (Hitoshi Okuda) 5000 years ago, Washu knowingly gave life to her own evil twin. Now, after a lengthy nap, her creation is back and ready to rumble! b&w $2.95

Bastard!! #15: Undead!! Part 1 of 5 (Kazushi Hagiwara) As his friends and lovers mourn, the mighty sorcerer's now literally heartless corpse is placed in its final resting place within the great temple of Metallicana. b&w 64pg $3.95

Battle Angel Alita: Last Order Part 1 #6 (Yukito Kishiro) In a blur of movement, Alita deftly dodges both Sechs' solenoid quench cannon and the twins' monowire attacks while using Desty Nova as a shield against further attacks. b&w $2.95

The Big O Volume 2 (Hajime Yatate & Hitoshi Ariga) Roger Smith, negotiator-cum-vigilante, foils dark foes in the streets of amnesia-plagued Paradigm City. b&w 224pg $15.95

The Big O Part 3 #4 (Hajime Yatate & Hitoshi Ariga) In a lonely shack comes a chance encounter between four people. 'Roger Smith, the Negotiator; Angel, the Femme Fatale; Beck, the Master Criminal; and Schwarzwald, the Madman. b&w 48pg $3.50

Firefighter!: Daigo of Fire Company M Vol 2 (Masahito Soda) As a rookie firefighter, Daigo struggles to earn the respect of his fellow firefighters while battling both blazes, an old school rival, and his own feelings for his pretty high school teacher. b&w 184pg $15.95

Inu-Yasha Part 7 #7 (Rumiko Takahashi) Inu-Yasha and Koga fight it out in a no-holds barred battle for Kagome. b&w 40pg $2.95

Mobile Suit Gundam 0079 Vol 9 (Kazuhisa Kondo) The battle for the asteroid fortress Solomon rages on and the White Base is at the centre of it all! b&w 192pg $9.95

Project Arms Part 1 #6 (Ryoji Minagawa) Egrigori has sent a pair of elementary school twins after Ryo and the other ARMs kids. Looks can be deceiving—these twins may be young, but they have precociously devious minds. b&w 40pg $3.25

Zoids: Chaotic Century Vol 13 (Michiro Ueyama) A search for a missing ZOID leads Van to a mountain town where he finds a sanctuary for wild ZOIDS and the people who take care of them. b&w 80pg $5.95

INTERNATIONAL

Black Library

Warhammer Monthly 65 (various) The blood lust of Lone Wolves reaches fever pitch as they battle the tyrannical menace, while Bloodquest is packed with more shocks. 40pg b&w ... $3.50

UK NEWSSTAND

DC Thomson

The Beano 3151-3154 (weekly; various) Humour anthology featuring Dennis the Menace, the Bash Street Kids, and all your favourites. £0.55

Beano Superstars 134 (various) One complete strip of the long-running humour anthology. 36pg £0.65

Classics From the Comics 81 (various) Anthology reprinting classic cartoon strips from DC Thomson's vintage kids' comics Beano and Dandy. 68pg b&w £1.20

Commando Action And Adventure Stories 3591-3598 (eight per month; digest; various) Featuring one self-contained comic strip per issue. Some new material. 68pg b&w £0.80

The Dandy 3183-3187 (weekly; various) Humour strips from DC Thomson's longest-running comic, starring Desperate Dan, Cuddles & Dimples, Beryl the Peil, Spotted Dick and Korky the Cat. £0.55

Football Picture Story Monthly 403-404 (fortnightly; digest; various) Contains one self-contained footie story per issue. 68pg b&w £0.80

Fun-Size Beano 129-130 (fortnightly; various) Pocket-sized spin-off from the Beano featuring Dennis the Menace, and all the usual suspects. 68pg £0.60

Fun-Size Dandy 130-131 (fortnightly; various) Pocket-sized spin-off from The Dandy featuring Desperate Dan, and many more favourites. 68pg £0.60

Panini Comics

Action Man 81 (four-weekly; various) All-new soldier adventure yarns, plus quizzes and prizes based on the action figure. 28pg £1.50

Astonishing Spider-Man 94 (four-weekly; various; Marvel UK) Official UK outing for US Marvel comic adventures, with free posters and extras. 76pg £2.40

The Avengers United 21 (various; Marvel UK) Collecting the cream of the Avengers crop and shaping them up for a UK readership. 76pg £2.40

Doctor Who Magazine 324 (four-weekly; various) Contains celebrity interviews, feature articles and original stories based on everybody's favourite doc. 52pg £3.30

Essential X-Men 94 (four-weekly; various; Marvel UK) This issue contains material from US editions Giant Sized X-Men #1 and Uncanny X-Men #358. 76pg £2.40

Sindy 31 (various) Includes comic strips, pop features and loads of cool things to get working at, all based on the UK's alternative to Barbie. £1.45

Spectacular Spider-Man 89 (eight-weekly; various) All new comic strips, puzzles and games. Plus, if you're good, a bunch of free posters and a competition. 36pg £1.75

Wolverine & Gambit 80 (four-weekly; various; Marvel UK) Compiles US Marvel's own brand of Wolverine comic strips plus magazine-style feature articles on the tortured toothy one. 76pg £2.40

Rebellion

2000 AD #1326-1329 (various) The Dredd/Aliens crossover *Incubus* continues, with the Grand Hall of Justice being invaded by the acid-drooling creatures. Celtic warrior Slaine must defeat the evil sea demon Moloch in the *Books of Invasion*, while Russian rogue Nikolai Dante meets his estranged mother in *Hell and High Water*. . $3.25

Judge Dredd Megazine 203 (various) Kicks off with a new story from the Dredd team of Wagner and Gibson, entitled *The Marriage Game*, featuring the return of Mrs Gunderson and Walter the Wobot. Ongoing stories include *Black Siddha*, the superheroes-meets-*Sopranos* story *Family* and much more. 100pg $10.99

Comment

Comics International, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ

Comment is a forum to enable fans and professionals alike to express their personal points of view on aspects of the comics industry. As such, the following opinions do not necessarily reflect those of this publication, but space will be given in subsequent issues to well-reasoned opposing views. Submissions are edited only for grammar, clarity and brevity.

Don't bin old comics – recycle!

Comment by Matthew Rees, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey

MOST of us without the luxury of commercial storage space have at one time faced the dilemma of what do with an ever-expanding collection of comics. I faced that crisis some 10 years ago, after 15 years of serious collecting and even longer reading them.

I kept a few thousand of my favourites – the usual suspects like **Killraven** and **Warlock**, but I was reluctant to throw the rest away. Not only did this seem wasteful, but also I wanted somebody else to have the opportunity of enjoying the comics that I had enjoyed.

I arrived at a multi-strand approach. I offered the mainstream comics – **Batman**, **Nova**, **Rom**, **Flash**, etc – free to the Richmond comic shop They Walk Among Us. After some haggling, I agreed to take some money for the comics, which went to a charity. The war and western comics – **Sgt Rock**, **Jonah Hex**, etc – went to a relative who actually wanted them. And the **2000 AD**s went to Feltham Young Offenders Institute.

Ten years later, I'm still buying comics from They Walk Among Us – although not as many. And I plan to keep almost all of them. But I am looking for a good home for my read copies of **Lab Rats**!

If you are thinking of getting rid of your old comics, keep them if you can – you won't regret it.

If you must get rid of them, I'm sure you can find a better home for them than the dustbin!

The last 14 years of Time

Comment by Giulio Cicconi via e-mail: g_cicconi71@hotmail.com

I'VE been following very closely the US comics marketplace for over 10 years and during that time I've always found it interesting to read about major comics events as reported in mainstream magazines and newspapers.

Time magazine in particular, has attracted my attention over the past decade because of its extensive coverage on the most important events taking place in both the US and European comics marketplace. What follows is a partial listing of such articles.

- **March 14, 1988** (*"Up, up and away,"* cover story, eight pages). Behind a striking cover by John Byrne and Jerry Ordway, the article celebrates Superman's 50th birthday by focusing on the people and events that helped the hero become one of the most recognisable characters in comics history. It chronicles Superman's origins and the troubles creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster had in selling their idea to US publishers, until they reached an agreement with publisher Detective Comics.

The first comment on the Man of Steel is from John Byrne, "the ultimate American success story". At the time Byrne was the writer/artist DC Comics assigned the thorny task of updating and revamping the hero's origins, after years of poor circulation figures.

Byrne's quote is followed by writer Harlan Ellison's "There are only five fictional creations known in practically every part of the earth: Tarzan, Sherlock Holmes, Mickey Mouse, Robin Hood and Superman".

The article goes on to cite the book **Superman at Fifty: The Persistence of a Legend** that reveals a little known fact about Lois Lane; the inspiration was Lois Amster, the class beauty whom neither Siegel nor Shuster ever dared to ask for a date.

It reveals that celebrations were ruined by the legal suit filed against DC by Siegel and Shuster over ownership rights. The litigation dragged on until the late 1970s, when DC owners Warner Communications wanted to make a movie version, paid them off with $20,000 a year for life.

The character of Superman is analysed by highlighting the hero's enduring success among the public throughout the decades – his being the incarnation of reassuring ideals of truth, justice and freedom – and the hero's love life, centred on several relationships with famous female characters (Lois Lane, Lori the mermaid, Lana Lang from Smallville and Wonder Woman).

The article analyses how Superman influenced the general audience by inspiring productions in different media: on radio (with the early broadcasts featuring Bud

Collyer's voice), on screen (from the first *Superman* TV movie serial played by actor Kirk Alyn) to the 1950s TV show with actor George Reeves donning the cape.

It mentions that Superman's image had some bad times during the 1950s and '60s, largely due to psychiatrist Fredric Wertham's book **Seduction of the Innocent** (1953) which, in addition to denouncing the alleged sadism featured in crime and horror comics, attacked the character on rather dubious political grounds ("Superman needs an endless stream of new submen, criminals and foreign-looking people not only to justify his existence but even to make it possible").

The revitalisation process began – the article's writer says – with the first Christopher Reeve movie (1978). Suddenly Superman was soaring again. The final part of the article focuses on the John Byrne-led revitalisation process on the comics front in 1986, in an effort from DC – after several years of low circulation figures – to update Superman's origins and icon for the younger, much demanding and more educated comics audience of the 1980s.

It features a double page splash pencilled by Byrne showing a cheering crowd of supporting characters saluting the hero for his 50th birthday; cover reproductions from Superman #13 (1st series), Action Comics #1 and #600 along with several panels from old Superman strips; photos of Superman's creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster; Lois Lane's inspiration Lois Amster; shots from Superman movies throughout the decades (featuring actors Kirk Alyn, George Reeves and Christopher Reeve).

- **November 1, 1993** *("Beyond Mickey Mouse,"* seven pages, cover by Belgian artist François Schuiten). **Time** celebrates the comics medium as a hybrid art form, spotlighting creators whose works began being taken as seriously as painting and cinema during the late 1980s. The article reports on the brisk and innovative European comics marketplace, where common, cheap comicbooks were being replaced as the readers' main interests by hardbound, oversized albums, printed on quality paper – the so-called 'graphic novels'.

The article conveys an image of comics as a visual and literal language that, starting back in the '60s and '70s, began to grow up with their readers, taking on political and sociological characters and themes.

Artists interviewed include US's Will Eisner, Uruguay's Alberto Breccia, Italy's Lorenzo Mattotti, France's Enki Bilal and Germany's Gerhard Seyfried.

The main article is accompanied by two additional features: the first is an interview with Art Spiegelman, 1992 Pulitzer prize winning author of the critically-acclaimed **Maus**, based on his father's tape-recorded memories of the Holocaust; and the second is about the ever-growing interest in comics in Japan, resulting in a thriving publishing industry whose circulation figures are among the highest in the world.

- **August 26, 1996** *("New Hopes, New Dream,"* 13 pages). This touching article chronicles the life of actor Christopher Reeve after his dramatic accident during a riding competition in May 1995. From the article's words transpires the actor's sheer determination to fight back and show a positive attitude towards the prospects medicine can really offer victims of spinal-cord injury. Without any doubt, the article is one of the best journalistic pieces I've ever had the chance to read.
- **June 8, 1998** *("The Cartoon Character – Bart Simpson,"* two pages). Matt Groening's character Bart Simpson is profiled among the 20 most influential artists and entertainers. Runners-up: Mickey Mouse, Superman and Bugs Bunny.
- **February 21, 2000** ("Cyber-Comics," three pages). A report on comics baron Stan Lee's bold attempt to take comics online, backed by his new company, Stan Lee Media.

It saluted Lee's goal as a new way of making comics; simple on-line animated shorts (webisodes), running between three and five minutes to view and download for free (at least at the beginning), complete with superhero sound effects. Lee's then main new on-line project centered on *The 7th Portal*, a series about computer geeks who travel cyberspace to protect Earth against a villain from another dimension.

The characters' images were taken from The Backstreet Boys. The article features a drawing of Lee's new characters by artists P. Martinez and Batt, with each one compared to the singer they take inspiration from, and a caricature of Lee himself.

- **February 19, 2001** *("Tell me a story,"* one page). To salute the new century and all the advancements and breakthroughs achieved in the past in every field of human knowlwdge, **Time** selected the most influential people who contributed the most in their sector.

Among the storytellers mentioned in **Time**'s 'Innovators' series are Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez. According to **Time**, the brothers' main work **Love and Rockets** is a brilliant example of storytelling, featuring "complex stories about real people, bringing a literary narrative form to the comicbook frame".

- **May 20, 2002** *("Biggest Season,"* cover story, seven pages and *"Superhero Nation,"* three pages). The US edition cover features a stunning photo from the Spider-Man movie and takes an in-depth look at the close relationship between Hollywood's movie industry and the comics world.

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The first article informs us that Spider-Man is poised to become the best-grossing blockbuster in Hollywood history, at least according to the box office figures for its opening weekend. The article's writer then lists the "moviemaking rules" that should be followed to turn a movie into an instant success:

1) Make it an action/romance
2) Start early (anticipate the beginning of the movie season)
3) Save your stars (and big bucks) by not paying too much – even actors with primary roles
4) Don't worry too much about the writing (when the genre is the star, the script doesn't have to be)
5) Get Kirsten Dunst wet

The second article delves into the long-lasting US fascination with the superhero genre: from the first heroes introduced by DC Comics in the late 1930s (Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman) who – as invulnerable superhumans – embodied ideals of truth, justice and honor to the Marvel heroes (Spider-Man, Hulk, The Fantastic Four and The X-Men) who were driven by guilt and other uncomfortable feelings about their condition. The American audience needed them to suffer its heartbreaks, reflect its anxieties, embody its weaknesses.

The two-article report is accompanied by a splash page Spidey illustration by artist J. Scott Campbell, plus another Campbell drawing, a listing of Spidey merchandise, and a brief history of Hollywood productions inspired by comics characters: Batman, Spider-Man, The X-Men, Hulk, Wonder Woman and Superman with thumbnail reproductions for each of their first comics appearance or significant issues (respectively: **Detective Comics** #27 and Frank Miller's cover to **Dark Knight Returns** #1, **Amazing Fantasy** #15, **The X-Men** #1, **Incredible Hulk** #1, **Wonder Woman** #1 and **Action Comics** #1).

In addition, a sidebar article features a short comics history.

To **CI** readers I ask: if you know of any other comics-related article published in news magazines and/or newspapers, please let us know.

Coppola load of this

Comment by Gary Wyeth via e-mail

THERE'S got to be a moral here somewhere. Nicholas Cage had two major loves in his life, comicbooks and Presley. He'd spent his entire life with one, until he got the chance to marry the other (well, Elvis's daughter, anyway).

But apparently Lisa Marie isn't much of a comics fan and made him dump his multi-million dollar collection within weeks of them marrying. Now I've just heard the kicker, they're getting divorced after only three months, with one of the reasons cited being "unreasonable demands".

Of course, all Coppola Jr has to do is make another quick movie and he'll be able to buy them all back again.

Or maybe he'll sell his Presley collection to drum up the cash.

Waiting for the real thing

Comment by Darren B Clarke via e-mail

I'M GETTING really X-cited about the release of *X2* next year. Everything I read about it seems to suggest this is what fans were expecting to see in the original movie, but it was almost as if you had to have the first film just to set the scene.

There were too many people to cover in one movie so a split team was perhaps the only way to go – although a large cast worked well in *Lord of the Rings*, so who knows. And the fact that Marvel had previously only managed a surprise hit with *Blade* possibly made them want to hedge their bets in case it flopped.

But I think the fact that there were a selected few characters in the first movie has served to whet the fans' appetites. Nightcrawler's appearance in *X2* as a main character is a nice surprise; I just hope they cut down on the drab religious side that has plagued Kurt Wagner for the past few years. I preferred him as the happy-go-lucky swashbuckler bouncing around and mixing it up with Wolverine.

Claremont and Byrne at that time created such a family atmosphere in the X-mansion and the Nightcrawler/Wolverine friendship was genuinely touching at times. The tightness of the family aspect was so clear compared to today's multitude of students and forgettable characters. There were fastball specials, no-powers basketball, dips in the lake and so on. Then Nightcrawler joined Excalibur and became it's heart and its leader.

Now, years (and many writers) later in **Uncanny X-Men** he's warbling about 'missing the touch of a woman'! It wasn't too long ago that he had Amanda Sefton and even Meggan from Excalibur taking a shine to him. I know in *X2* there is supposed to be a big thing about Kurt having ritualistic scarring, which is a nice touch, but my fingers are crossed for the Kurt Wagner we know and love, not some facsimile with a totally alien personality.

Sir Ian McKellan has been quoted as saying the first film was basically one long trailer setting up the sequel. If that's true, *X2* could be *the* Marvel movie of 2003.

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Reed Crandall art
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Pat Boyette art

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Third Annual Awards Ceremony

Beyond 2000 by David Bishop

Rants and raves from Egmont's ex-Tharg

THIS time last year several publishers were hailing a minute increase in total sales as evidence of a better outlook. In fact the market had merely stabilised after years of decline. The good news is that things have continued to improve. By the end of 2002 more titles were selling more copies than a year ago, and the expansion of the graphic novels market bodes well for the future. The bad news is that not enough new readers are being attracted to comics – it's just the same old readers buying more titles. Still, enough of my midget-minded prophecies of doom. Here are the **Beyond 2000** Awards for the year 2002...

The Blunder Years Award for Biggest Cock-Up:

Marvel grabs this one for fumbling the ball with *Spider-Man*. The film version starring Tobey Maguire was this year's box office smash, grossing four hundred million dollars just in the US. But the wallcrawler's various comics added just a few thousand extra sales. Millions of people saw the movie, but **Amazing Spider-Man** and its much hyped creative team of Straczynski and Romita Jr struggled to shift 100,000 copies. The failure is all the more acute because this time last year Marvel's Joe Quesada was telling the **New York Observer** how the film could be the knockout punch for increasing comics industry revenues. He stated the film was amazingly important to the entire industry, not just to reviving Marvel's fortunes. With films of *Daredevil*, *Hulk* and an *X-Men* sequel coming soon, Quesada needs to find the alchemy of converting big screen success into increased comics sales.

The Last Man Standing Award for Survival Skills:

Companies and rivals come and go in British comics, but **2000 AD** endures. The weekly celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2002 while the few competitors still around slowly sunk from view. The comics on the web initiative at Cool Beans went belly-up, having failed to find a winning formula for converting readers to downloadable stories and art. Would-be giant-killer Com.X also went very quiet at the end of 2002, after talking up its chances in previous years. Early efforts from the upstart publisher showed promise, but it was soon plagued by an industry-wide problem – lateness. One of the reasons **2000 AD** survives is that it rarely goes late. The quality may vary but the weekly's innate momentum sees it through the rough spots. That's a lesson others could do well to learn.

The Musical Chairs Award for Most Creative Team Variations:

Marvel scoops this one for the revolving door outside the **New X-Men**. Sorting out the best-selling mutant titles was one of Quesada's first priorities when he took over. The arrival of Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely lured readers to **New X-Men** who hadn't touched a mutant book for years. Quitely is a wonderful artist but is not capable of pencilling a monthly book, so Marvel appointed a fill-in illustrator. But when you have to find fill-ins for your fill-in, things are going badly awry. The title lost its momentum and luring readers back will be difficult.

The Invisibles Award for Disappearing from View:

Dark Horse wins this for the third year running, based on its poor comics sales. In fact the company had a good year in the graphic novel market, with **Lone Wolf & Cub** leading the ranking most months. Alas, that sure-fire winner has come to an end and Dark Horse's monthlies are still falling off the radar. *Attack of the Clones* had little effect on sales of the company's *Star Wars* titles and

Fray by *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* creator Joss Whedon went missing in action. How long before Dark Horse pulls the plug on monthly comics altogether?

The Nickel and Dime Award for Cover Price Gimmicks:

DC Comics launched this wheeze with the **Batman 10 Cent Adventure** back in January, using the one-off comic as a loss-leader to get readers into the Bruce Wayne murderer-fugitive story. As usual, Marvel did not prove shy in pinching one of DC's ideas and soon published a nine-cent issue of **Fantastic Four**. WildStorm was last on the bandwagon with a 13-cent edition of **Gen 13**. Could you care less about **Gen 13**? Thought not. Its low price issue was the least successful of the trio. Hopefully this does not herald a return to the gimmicks that blighted early 1990s comics.

The Did I Say That Out Loud? Award for Speaking Too Soon:

Quesada grabs this one too, for announcing that he had hired Jim Shooter to write **The Avengers**. That happened towards the end of 2001, earning Quesada a nod in last year's awards for being brave and bold. Alas, the heroism did not last very long. Shooter's return was quickly and quietly killed off early in 2002.

Above: Separated at birth? Jim Shooter and Masters of the Universe's Skeletor. One made a successful comeback this year. The other didn't.

The Legwarmers-a-Go-Go Award for Services to the 1980s:

This is a tie between Dreamwave, WildStorm and Image for reviving a decade many of us would prefer to forget. Perennial favourite **GI Joe** was one of the first to make a comeback, but it was the soaraway success of **Transformers** that got the bandwagon rolling. Suddenly every toy tie-in you could think of seemed to be getting resurrected – **Thundercats**, **Masters of the Universe**, **Battle of the Planets** and many more. The kick in the teeth for readers outside the US came towards the end of 2002 when it transpired many of the licences acquired by the publishers only covered North American territories. Ebay will be busy for months to come as a black market springs up to meets the needs of rabid **Transformers** fans in the UK.

The Suits You Sir Award for Keeping Lawyers Busy:

Another tie, this time shared by Neil Gaiman and Todd McFarlane. Their court case over who owns what in the pages of **Spawn** provided plenty of entertainment for those watching and an apparent victory for creators' rights at the finish. But, in lawsuits as in comics, nothing dies forever. McFarlane has already pledged to appeal the decision, so you can expect the case to rumble on well into 2003. Joint runners-up are Joe Simon for getting his claim to Captain America revived and Stan Lee for taking on the corporate might of Marvel.

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Networks

Comics news and gossip on the Internet

Compiled by Chris Rice and the CI team of Netmites

Rich Johnston's LYING IN THE GUTTER

The mild-mannered creator/writer of the Internet's original comics industry rumour and news column has outraged many a publisher and survived more than one change of website. But, despite several attempts to stop it, the Squiddy Award-winning gutterpress site continues to thrive, with over 20,000 hits a week at its new home of www.comicbookresources.com

From his unique vantage point, Rich often scoops the industry newshounds with his stories. Here are the highlights from this month's Gutter...

The Great Marvel Conspiracy

So, what's been happening with Marvel Comics of late? I don't mean their up-and-coming projects, **Truth**, **Unstable Molecules**, etc. But their financial status. I don't even mean reported improved profits, although that's part of it. More like their structure as a company.

Peter Cuneo resigns, taking a board of director's seat. That's a saving of one big fat executive salary. He was on almost a million dollars – twice the price of the nearest Marvel exec on the board. Hell, Bill Jemas is only on $350,000. Then, Marvel elevates its VP/General Counsel Allen Lipson, but doesn't replace him. That's possibly two big fat executive salaries saved. It appears that middle management is having a little bit of a clear out and there have been firings at an editorial level. Their highest paid marketing guy, Bill Rosemann, who has been on the books for ten years was allegedly given a golden parachute and replaced with fan favourite, Mike Doran – but on half the salary, so I hear.

Why? Marvel is trimming down ongoing costs in order to be sold – Sony being the suitor they have in mind. Indeed, I hear Sony has been directing Marvel on what cuts to make to get its board to sign off on the deal. When the deal is done, it will largely be a paper deal, with stock swaps all around. Six months later, when the remaining executives can sell their stock, they can go retire in Tahiti. Insider producer sources have been confirming this story – indeed, Sony has been acting in some meetings as if it already owns Marvel. But, you know, I feel like hedging my bets. Neither Marvel or Sony chose to comment.

Truth Hurts

Bob Morales, writer of the seemingly controversial Captain America series, **The Truth**, will not be doing personal appearances for the book because Marvel has said it can't guarantee his security. Morales and Marvel have been receiving incredibly racist threats over the announcement of the series, which tells the story of a young American black soldier being an early "super-soldier" prototype for the Captain America experiment. The artist, Kyle Baker (also black) seems to show no such fears.

Pinklisted

This week, on the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund's *Delphi* website, a discussion broke out about what political beliefs the CBLDF would support being expressed, whether in comics or on their own forum.

Harlan Carroll wrote, "Mike Miller was fired as an artist because he posted in the DC Forums that he believed homosexuality was wrong. What is the official CBLDF stance on that?" Mike Miller was a DC artist and I personally remember his work from Grant Morrison's **JLA**. He replied to the post:

"This is Mike. I don't think there's anything the CBLDF could do about my blacklisting. I've spoken to the family lawyer about it (he actually handles just this kind of case) and he didn't think it was illegal.

Firstly, I was a freelancer, and my work drying up could be 'explained' away for any number of reasons. Sure, it makes little to no sense that I would go from

continued on next page...

Net sightings

Miracleman Bits

NETWORKS *has no doubts that the name Miracleman has appeared in this column more times than that of any other comics character, so from here on we shall be referring to him as MM, so that* Networks *doesn't start maniacally screaming the word in the Post Office. Again.*

And on to this month's wee batch of stories, starting in late November when news leaked out that web-based downloadable magazine ***Borderline*** *was in talks with the niece of original MM publisher Len Miller, who claimed to have the rights for the re-publication of the '50s incarnation of the strip.*

The plans were to reprint the strip, with the proceeds going to charity. There was even talk of there possibly being new stories, but just how that would work makes we Netmites' heads throb, just thinking of it.

Our own editor pretty much rubbished the idea, pointing out that creator and octogenarian Mick Anglo would probably be somewhat unimpressed with the proceeds going to charity, and that the strips concerned were actually pretty "creaky".

Phil Hall, the editor of ***Borderline*** *replied in the next issue: ...*an old friend of mine once talked about the curse of Marvelman (aaaah!) and that curse has struck again. We're not going to be following our line of enquiries. In fact Marvelman isn't coming anywhere near **Borderline Comics**. It's been made clear to the team that to go this route would be 'bad news' for me, specifically, and mine. I'm not running away from something, I'm just trying to maintain a vacuum.

Overlooking that puzzler of how to maintain a vacuum, ***Borderline Comics****? That's the new line of downloadable comics that* ***Borderline*** *is planning for 2003, and which have had a fair amount of publicity due to this little story. Whether it started as such or not, the MM angle has turned into a nice little publicity stunt. However, downloadable comics are still a difficult thing to make any money from at the moment.*

Unbound Comics is doing a similar thing, with above average comics from creators like Chuck Dixon, Tom Lyle, Jamie Delano, John Higgins and Ben Templesmith yet they're still struggling, so ***Borderline*** *is going to need some heavyweight creators.*

Meanwhile, over on All The Rage *on* Silver Bullet*'s website, Alan Donald interviewed one of MM's more recent creators, Mark Buckingham and decided to see what he could find out on the subject:*

Alan: So, Mark, the question: Have you been doing any work for Mr. Gaiman?

Bucky: Well, as you know, Neil is in the country. We've chatted on the phone recently and we'll be meeting up to catch up on things in the next few weeks... [I've] dug out issues 25 and 26 of **MM** as well as the last script that Neil gave me. It's all looking very positive. BUT there's nothing concrete. I wouldn't go placing any advance orders just yet.

Which is at the very least encouraging.

Lastly, somebody at French publisher Semic obviously has a sense of humour. Next year's Angouleme festival is fast approaching, and as usual there will be many American and UK creators. Semic is bringing over Neil Gaiman and frequent collaborator Dave McKean, as well as... Todd McFarlane.

And guess which two of the above are signing in the same tent, on the same day, at the same time?

It's a fantastic festival anyway, and will feature a rare appearance from Akira creator Katsuhiro Otomo along with most major European creators.

Well worth going to, if only to see what a festival of comics is like in a country that respects and adores the medium.

Mark Buckingham on the future of ***Miracleman****: "It's all looking very positive".*

Wonky WizardWorld

The popular ***WizardWorld*** *site, a spin-off from* ***Wizard*** *magazine, suffered a setback in November, as the company that purchased and ran it collapsed.* ***WizardWorld*** *itself ran the following story:*

Comics and collectables news site **WizardWorld .com** has been caught in a dot-com drama since November 13, 2002. While no secret, it apparently is not widely known among the comics community that in the spring of 2002, **WizardWorld.com** website was acquired by 800America.com from Wizard Entertainment.

WizardWorld.com has been operating out of Ottawa, Canada, along with other web properties. **Wizard World.com** has maintained a relationship with Wizard Entertainment, offering online magazine subscriptions and convention tickets, etc, on the publisher's behalf.

On November 13, David Elie Rabi, Chief Executive of 800America.com, was arrested in New York and faces charges of securities fraud related to alleged financial misdoings as 800America's CEO. As of November 13, all of the finances north and south of the border were frozen. "The funds were frozen to protect the interests of the

company and its clients," explained Jerry Kavoun, the 800America Senior VP who oversees Ottawa's operations. "All funds were essentially in limbo for about two weeks, until the money could be released to the receiver for proper dispensation," Kavoun said.

He stressed, "Our commitment to our **Wizard World.com** clients is paramount." The website has been updated daily since November 13. A court-appointed receiver, New York lawyer Michael S. Sommer, is evaluating the future of **WizardWorld.com** and its employees.

Patrick Sinclair has been assisting with the evaluation of the Ottawa operations and has been on-site. Currently, the direction for the website is "business as usual."

At one point, however, it was questionable whether employees would have their pay cheques honoured on November 15. As it turned out, the payments did go through, much to the relief of the employees. "It's been a real strain on everybody, all the employees and their families," said Ronn Sutton, artist for Claypool's **Elvira, Mistress of the Dark** and boyfriend of **WizardWorld .com** Managing Editor Janet Hetherington. "Janet's been writing and editing content to maintain the website, but it's been real up-in-the-air as to what's happening in the future."

A number of employees received letters of termination dated November 25, but people who are key to keeping the **Wizard World.com** site updated have not received letters.

As for 800America, its shares have been suspended by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SEC filed a suit in a Manhattan federal court shortly after announcing in Washington that it suspended trading in 800America stock through November 26. The SEC said it determined that 800America's general ledger contained at least $22.2 million in fictitious sales in the 2001 calendar year – more than 100% of the $21.4 million in revenues it reported in the audited financial statements in its 2001 filings.

However, the last entry on the site was in November, and reportedly all of 800America.com's employees have now been laid off.

Although the site is still up, it has apparently been down quite a lot too, and **Wizard** have now started up **WizardUniverse.com**, as a very basic still under construction alternative.

Networks *suspects this story may not get a lot of coverage in* ***Wizard****, funnily enough.*

Wizardworld.com*'s Managing Editor, Janet Hetherington, artistically expresses her concerns about the state of the troubled website.*

Internet comic, e-zine and website reviews

SLAVE LABOR GRAPHICS *www.slavelabor.com*

The official site of the highly regarded 'alternative' publisher SLG (whose imprints include Amaze Ink and Slave Labor, and titles include **Skeleton Key** and **Action Girl Comics**). This lively looking site has such offerings as news, history, links and it even sells SLG-related toys. Best of all for fans are the contact details of its creators, which sum up the approach of the entire site: a communicative and grounded stance with no attempt to be pretentious, unlike so many publisher's websites. (CEB) **8**

WAHOO COMIC DIRECTORY *www.dereksantos.com/wahoo*

A well organised database of comic websites categorised in such easy-to-use headings as images, characters, auctions, newsgroups and more. So far it stretches to 2063 entries and the ever-useful, permanently-displayed index keeps you from getting lost. Wahoo's main limitation is that it's very US-orientated, but **Comics International** still shares some of the limelight, of course! (CEB) **7**

LAMBIEK *www.lambiek.net*

There are two reasons why this comic shop based in Amsterdam are noteworthy. Firstly, having been founded in 1968, it's almost conclusive that Lambiek is the world's oldest specialist comic shop. The second reason is the shop's very own 'Comiclopedia', an online encyclopedia, with 3,300 high-quality profiles of comic artists, ranging from Todd McFarlane to Robert Crumb to Andi Watson to Will Eisner. Additionally there are overviews of many European comics, links and an online store, all wrapped up in a colourful site with every effort made. (CEB) **9**

Review Panel: Chris Bunting (CEB), Tom McSween (TM) and Tim Pilcher (TP)

Rich Johnston's LYING IN THE GUTTER

continued from previous page...

being next in line to take over DC's flagship title to not being able to draw **Ambush Bug**, and having a greenlit prestige JLA project go from 'go' to 'no' without a definable explanation... (and the editor telling the assigned inker, "I can't talk about it") but without a written document that states specifically that I am not to be given work because of my vocalizing my views (on a message board), there's nothing legally that can be done.

"Of course, the contrary view, that homosexuality is 'fine' and 'normal' and 'good' can be pronounced and proclaimed by a DC creator on freaking *Phil Donohue* without repercussion (actually, with promotion!) because it suits his very powerful editor's agenda... hey, that's freedom of speech!"

"But I digress. God's plan will prove itself, and DC has every right to give or not give whoever they want work, for whatever reason they deem fit."

Ah c'mon DC, live and let live. We all of us have to share this grand planet of ours. Why not give Mike Miller some new work? I've got this Midnighter/Apollo mini-series proposal in mind that would be just his thing...

Smell So Sweet

I hear more muttering that Marvel's much-promised creator-owned line will be coming into effect in 2003. Its name? Epic. Well, there's a first.

Todd's Transformation?

Courtesy of a few ex-McFarlane workers, I've been told that once again Hasbro is interested in buying up McFarlane Toys. Previous rumours have stated that Hasbro did once make an offer which Todd McFarlane turned down – but now it might be a different story. I've heard that the figure in question would be around a hundred million dollars. Current and presumably less bitter McFarlane employees did not respond to inquiries.

The Best Laid Plans...

Bob Wayne, DC's Marketing Vice President, has been openly reported as praising Marvel's new line of comics, calling them the best work Marvel's ever created, although he reserves the right to mock their no-overprint policies.

So why are they so happy? Well, DC believe that creators more closely associated with DC projects moving onto Marvel's big mainstream books gives those DC projects a boost. Hence DC's plans to reprint in trade paperback format Pete (**X-Statix**) Milligan and Chris (**Ultimate War**) Bachalo's **Shade The Changing Man**, as well as other Milligan past projects like **The Extremist**, **Egypt** and **Girl** which otherwise would have fallen over the Vertigo horizon. Morrison's presence on **New X-Men** ensured that **The Invisibles** would be reprinted. The only high profile Marvel creator more commonly associated with DC who won't benefit in this way is Mark Millar, who seems to have burnt a fair number of bridges over there and whose **Red Son** (Superman lands in Russia) may be overshadowed by John Cleese's **True Brit** (Superman lands in Britain).

Either way, you can kiss goodbye to his critically-acclaimed and Moore-compared **Swamp Things** being reprinted. With new Vertigo series from Ennis, Dillon, Milligan, Morrison, Casey, Winnick and other X-talents, it looks like Vertigo may be taking a deserved ride on Marvel's coat tails.

Miller Time

So who has been visiting the set of the *Daredevil* film? Could it possibly have been Frank Miller? Seen chatting with director Steven Johnson, Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner, they couldn't keep their tongues off him. Reportedly, they all expressed admiration for his work, which is the basis for a good portion of the film. The director has also arranged a cameo for Miller…

Reviews

*Because few retailers allow titles to be read before purchase, **Comics International**'s comprehensive reviews section enables comics readers to keep abreast of the wide range of titles currently being published and draw readers' attention to comics they might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section is of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they can only judge the quality of a title after purchase.*

***Review codes:** Individual titles are judged against all similar comics past and present on a **1** to **10** basis, while a comparison is made against previous issues of the same title, ranging from <---> to <+++>. Hence, a quality comic may score an 8 against all others, but have slid from a previous issue's 9, denoted by <->. No change is marked <=>. We do not compare **Bone** with **X-Men**, but review each within their genre.*

***Review panel:** Chris D. Bowen (CDB), Chris E. Bunting (CEB), Robert Cave (RC), Jon Edwards (JE), Kelvin Green (KG), Stephen Hall (SH), Jae Leitch (JL), Dominic McDonagh (DM), Scott Montgomery (SM), Lee Nelson (LN), Rob Nott (RN), Terence Stewart (TS), Mat Thomas (MT), Alex Thompson (MAT)*

CrossGen

The Path 7

by Marz & Sears

<+> Visually epic, this dark and gritty Samurai tale stands as one of the most cinematic stories this year. Yes, it's a little bit style over substance in places, but when the choreography looks this impressive you can forgive the creators their Kurosawa-like touches. Definitely a comic for people who prefer the grittier edge of the CrossGen universe. (RN) 8

Scion 28

by Marz & Fern

<---> Ordinarily this title has excellent art, complimented by some exceptional use of colour, but this month it's fill-in art time and whoever Jim Fern is, sadly he can't cut the mustard. Scion is all about the scale of the visuals and it's sad to suddenly see Ron Marz's epic fantasy story bogged down in such crudely defined pencils. Jim Cheung is sorely missed. (RN) 4

Dark Horse

Hard Looks – Adapted Stories

by Vachss & various

This collection of adapted and illustrated short stories looks (hard!) at dark inner city life and crime. Even through adaptation these stories shine with righteous bile, and the term gritty is suddenly pretty weak as an easy description. Featuring outstanding work from Joe R. Lansdale, Geoff Darrow, Warren Pleece, Dave Gibbons and David Lloyd, no crime fiction collection is complete without it. (MT) 9

Oh, My Goddess! 92

by Fujishima

<=> Faced with the problem of where to store all Tamiya's stuff, the inventive Skuld designs a machine that concentrates on the space aspect of the time/space continuum. Of course in the hands of Frank Spencer-like klutz Keichi even something controlled with a Nintendo game pad is dangerous – and quickly he and the powerless Belldandy are in an infinity sized room. (JL) 7

Star Wars: Infinities – Empire Strikes Back 4

by Land & Fabbri + Dalla Vecchia

<=> Following a disappointing first issue of this alternative take on the second *Star Wars* movie, this series has improved greatly. Mixing the familiar with the radically different in its spin on *Episode V*, writer Dave Land has successfully incorporated elements from the prequels to make an intriguing "what if" tale. (SH) 8

DC Comics

Batman 609

by Loeb & Lee + Williams

<=> With more speed lines, oddly contorted action poses, gratuitous guest (breast?) appearances, broken backs and miraculous recoveries, Jeph Loeb and Jim Lee's Batman continues to develop along all the expected directions. Ironically, only the Tim Sale-esque flashback reveals how Lee's art has developed since the '90s, whilst Loeb merely produces his usual perfunctory scripting. (MAT) 6

Doom Patrol 14

by Arcudi & Fisher

<=> It's not often that the fill-in artist gives the regular a run for their money, but Seth Fisher, an ever-rising talent at DC, proves otherwise, showing that Tan Eng Huat doesn't have the monopoly on producing arresting visuals and cool design. John Arcudi's time travelling/body swapping script makes knowing digs at the classic silver-age team line-up, as our heroes thwart another dastardly plan by the original Brotherhood of Evil, while tackling the problems of female to male mind transference. (MAT) 7

The Filth 6

by Morrison & Weston + Erskine; Vertigo

<+> Grant Morrison is still aiming to unsettle his audience as an anally-fixated king of porn unleashes an army of giant sperm upon the female population of Los Angeles. But after saving the world once more, Greg Feely's normal life begins to 'cum' undone. Although the plots get more crazed with each issue, this is much less serious than the veneer of Morrison's psychobabble suggests, keeping you smirking all the way through. (MAT) 7

Global Frequency 2

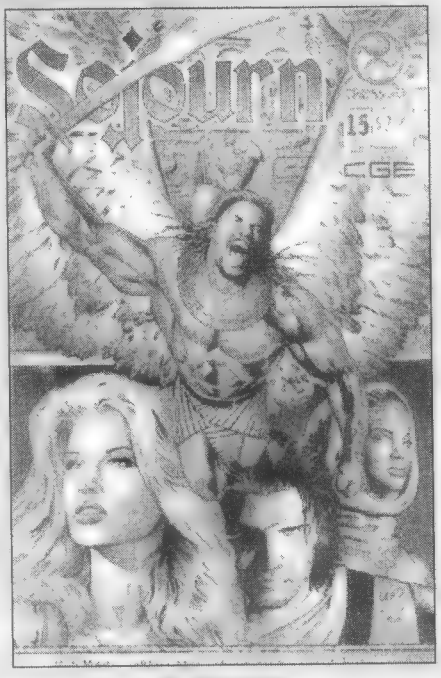
by Ellis & Fabry; WildStorm

<=> Warren Ellis throws out more gritty sci-fi threats against his international rescue team for the naughties. The mysterious group finds itself up against Glen Fabry's suitably disgusting 500 million-dollar man, intent on enacting revenge on the military scientists who rebuilt him. In all, more hard-assed dialogue and comedic action moments than you can stake a cybernetic stick at. (MAT) 7

Sojourn 15

by Marz & Land; CrossGen

<+> Although steeped in traditional fantasy stereotypes, CrossGen's Sojourn regularly delivers some subtle twists to the familiar format. Case in point this month: the trials and tribulations of the Dark Lord's right hand man, Bohr. It seems the further out from the Dark Lord's citadel he gets, the more bureaucratic and incompetent the provincial evil despots and underlings become. Most of them would prefer to have a nice mid-afternoon nap than spreading a reign of abject terror. Ron Marz and Greg Land share their reassuringly down to earth approach to evil! (RN) 7



Green Lantern 156

by Winnick & Eaglesham + Ramos

<+> While Kyle's stropping in space, ex-GL John Stewart steps into the role of Green Lantern. And with the main character out of the title, Judd Winnick's writing actually isn't as bad/hokey as usual. Of course, not much happens, which isn't good news for the paying customer, but it's better than nothing. The art was all right, too!(MT) 4

Hawkman 9

by Johns & Robinson + Rags

<-> Will you look at the size of that arse? After all, Hawkgirl's posterior does get a page all of its own, signalling a flashback to her troubled past. Meanwhile, Hawkman gets a visit from his son, Dr Fate (don't ask!), for a wise word on the… er, fate of the Hawk-couple. This comic seriously needs to focus, and pick up the pace. (TS) 6

JLA 75

by Kelly & various

<=> The welcome conclusion to *The Obsidian Age: The Hunt for Aquaman*, an overlong and confusing epic involving the Justice League and Atlantean shenanigans. The only really entertaining part of this story was seeing Nightwing, Green Arrow et al as the new League. As one of DC's flagship titles, this book must improve! 3

JLA: Secret Origins

by Dini & Ross

Following their Superman, Batman, Captain Marvel and Wonder Woman graphic novels, writer Paul Dini and painter Alex Ross once again join forces. This time for a special which retells the origins of all the key DC heroes in eye-popping double-page spreads. Some material is reprinted from the aforementioned volumes, but this is still an excellent package, beautifully recapping several origin tales, which are much less familiar than those of Batman or Superman. There are also lengthy interviews with both Ross and Dini. (SH) 9

100% #4

by Pope; Vertigo

<=> The late(st) issue of Paul Pope's futuristic drama arrives on the shelves. Pope's intro explains how the book developed out of various free-floating story ideas, brought together for this series. Although he does a good job of stringing these parts together, in a Robert Altman via Blade Runner kinda manner, the plot threads remain slightly disjointed and pushing in different directions, leaving the series without the direction found in Pope's other works. (MAT) 6

Promethea 23

by Moore & Williams III + Gray; America's Best Comics

<=> If there's a better comic artist on this planet than J.H. Williams III then I want to know about it. And if there's a better art team than Williams III and Mick Gray then I don't know about it. Those who've

hankered after something a little more earthy from Promethea will be heartened to hear that Sophie is back on Earth having made it to the top of the Kabballic tree where she discovered, well, nothing, actually... (JL) 8

The Spectre 23

by DeMatteis & Breyfogle + Janke

<=> Stigmonus toys with Hal's control of the Spectre's objective. Much of this series has focused on intellectual insight into the religious aspects of the Spectre's character. Although often heavy material for a DC hero title, it is never less than thought provoking. Maybe not what you would expect from the spandex scene, but who said heroes should be conformist? (CDB) 7

Stormwatch: Team Achilles 5

by Wright & Portacio + Williams; WildStorm

<+> The United Nations-authorised team invades Chechnya in search of the super-powered terrorists, only to be hotly pursued themselves by The Authority. Whilce Portacio's art improves with this more action-orientated issue, and Micah Ian Wright does a good job of aping Warren Ellis with snappy dialogue and dirty ops action, but this time the exploding heads are due to well placed grenades rather than super-powered fists. (MAT) 6

Supergirl 76

by David + Benes

<+> A charm of a comic, perfectly pitched between humour and pathos. Kara Zor-El gets a stern rejection from (an impostor) Superman, that echoes the early pre-Crisis Superman/Supergirl dynamic (he could be so cruel!), and attempts to push the Earth out of its orbit, while doing a hand-stand; a classic scene. I even like the cover, which succinctly captures the childlike innocence Kara represents. (TS) 8

Wildcats Version 3.0 #4

by Casey & Nguyen + Friend; WildStorm

<+> Joe Casey kicks loose after some rather sedate initial issues. Grifter is drafted in by the vengeful C.C. Rendozzo to bring in a missing agent from an apparently normal suburban home, only to find himself in the middle of a violent gunfight and confronting a rather unwelcome emotionless face from the past. Dustin Nguyen's stylishly fine linework continues to evoke the spirit of Travis Charest, which is no bad thing. (MAT) 7

Wonder Woman 186

by Jimenez & Jimenez

<-> This is little more than a bog standard catch-up issue, which comes complete with the usual patented Jimenez exposition. There's a lot of superfluous, cack-handed dialogue, and some scenes that really should have been pruned. The girly talk between Wonder Woman, Troia and Wonder Girl is particularly gruesome. But we do get some background on the male Cheetah, though, just in time for the fur to start flying next issue. (TS) 6

Lucifer 32

by Carey & Gross + Kelley; Vertigo

<=> Lucifer triumphant! Ho-hum. Tricks Amenadiel! Ho-hum. Gets his feathers back! Ho-hum. Meanwhile Mazikeen, like many wives, uses her tongue to tear her husband apart. Ryan Gross and Peter Kelly pull out the stops and while it was easy to see where Mike Carey's plot was going, its telling remains strong. (JL) 7

<=> Another fine issue of Vertigo' s best current title. Carey wraps up the curent storyline with a bang, and without resorting to any deus ex machina Lucifer's duel with Amenadiel and Mazikeen's squabble with her husband are both resolved in an elegant and unexpected manner This is better than The Sandman ever was. (DM) 9

<=> Lucifer sizes up to Amenadiel of the Lord's host in the arena while Mazikeen gets re-acquainted with her estranged husband. Even though you know a wounded, semi-powerless Lucifer is going to wipe the floor with his overbearing enemy, you can't figure out how until the ending sneaks up and taps you on the shoulder. Mike Carey never cheats his readers, so Lucifer's victory is – as ever – downright sneaky and inspired, not to mention ironic. Lucifer comes across as perhaps the only person who'd be capable of selling John Constantine a plot of swampland in Louisiana. (RN) 8

<++> The weakened Lucifer stylishly wins his duel with Amenadiel, as Mazikeen's randy estranged husband Scoria is foiled in, um, having his wicked way with her. Mike Carey weaves his plotlines together smoothly here, pacing the finale perfectly, and the art team again does an admirable job of depicting Hell as just another neck of the woods. Groovy.(MT) 8

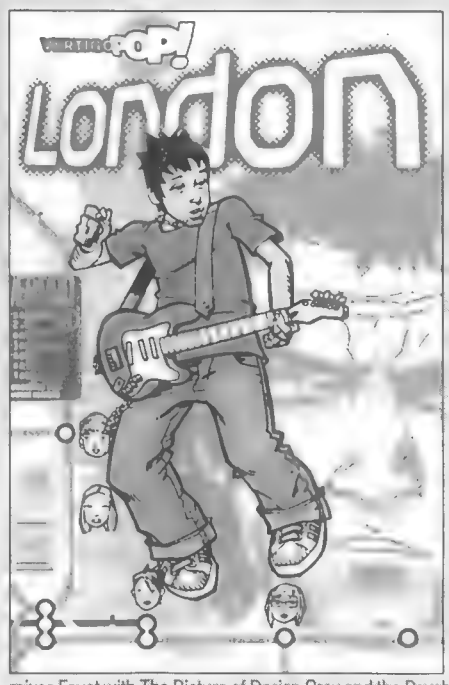
Image

Powers 25

by Bendis & Oeming

<=> Semi-retired vigilante Red Hawk is murdered after a video airs on the news showing a hooker dressed as his sidekick getting a, um, shower of gold off him. As usual this title continues to go in unexpected directions, and the usual combination of smooth dialogue and pacing, and dark atmospheric pop art pulls you right in. Nice.(MT) 8

<+> Walker's return to the force is interrupted by yet more perverse crimes in the upper echelons of the costumed establishment, in Brian Michael Bendis's exploration of the dirty side of corrupt superpowers. While full of great dialogue and Mike Oeming's angular artwork, Bendis's influence is starting to get the better of his work, as he covers territory that is two-a-penny in superhero comics these days. (MAT) 7



Vertigo Pop: London 1

by Milligan & Bond; Vertigo

An ageing rock star seeks a way to turn back the clock. Neither Pete Milligan nor Philip Bond are on inspiring form, turning in a rather bland contribution to Vertigo's new urban line. As an interesting aside, Interzone printed Christopher Evans' Da Capo a while back, which dealt with some very similar themes. (JL) 5

You'd be hard pressed to find a better combo than Pete Milligan and Philip Bond and here, by the grace of God himself, they're working together on a brilliant tale of London pop culture that mixes Faust with The Picture of Dorian Grey and the Psychedelic Almanac. An ageing sixties rock star is feeling his mortality and lack of success creeping up on him, but a long forgotten secret from his days in India may offer an answer Great writing and great art. This month's 'must buy'. (RN) 8

Tomb Raider: The Greatest Treasure of All prelude

by Jurgens & Jusko; Top Cow

Lara Croft and her ex-lover are stranded in the jungles of Central America. Forget the annoyingly trite dialogue – the main attraction here is Joe Jusko's fantastic painted artwork. One could argue that by making the artwork so photorealistic in places, it loses a certain spark and character, almost bordering on a photo story. The results, though, are nevertheless stunning. But be warned – the book costs £4 for a meagre 11 pages. (JE) 9

Marvel

Alias 16

by Bendis & Gaydos; MAX Comics

<+> The subtle humour just doesn't let up. Jessica's attempts to make sense of the superpowered spandex world around her continue with all the chaotic aplomb that we've grown to love. This month delivers some serious belly laughs at the expense of SHIELD, female versions of established super heroes and late night convenience store robberies. Brian Michael Bendis is so good he should by rights be British. (RN) 9

<+> A mysterious girl in a Spider-Man costume appears in Jessica's apartment, argues with secret agents and sleeps over at Ant-Man's. But it's a lot better than it sounds. Gaydos's murky art is superbly evocative of the seedier side of the Marvel universe, but it's Bendis's smooth realistic dialogue and sense of pacing that draw you in and keep you hooked. (MT) 9

<=> Jessica finds herself being drawn into yet another mysterious case just as she'd thought she'd found some stability with Mr 'nice-guy' Ant-Man. Brian Michael Bendis sends his heroine off on an intriguing storyline involving shadowy secret agents, Jonah Jameson and lasses who dress up in Spidey costumes. (MAT) 8

Amazing Spider-Man 47

by Straczynski & Romita Jr + Hanna

<=> Shathra hits Spidey right where it hurts: his reputation. This tense tale is arguably the best issue by J. Michael Straczynski and John Romita Jr to date. Instead of running out of steam, they seem to be gaining momentum. What with this, Captain Marvel and The Fantastic Four it's becoming harder and harder to voice that old fanboy battle cry, "Comics aren't

nearly as good as they used to be!" (CEB) 8

<+> Spidey jumps to the defence of his personal life after being slurred by a mysterious mystical villain. J. Michael Straczynski begins to explore the repercussions of the "spider" revelations, but still allows for more great fight sequences, drawn by the ever-reliable John Romita Jr. But as intriguing a direction as it is, you're still left wondering where all the classic villains are hiding. (MAT) 7

Apache Skies 4

by Ostrander & Manco; MAX Comics

<=> John Ostrander and Leonardo Manco end their reinterpretation of Marvel's old Western heroes with a suitably explosive showdown, Manco's gritty artwork and leather-clad characters bringing them bang up to date for a new audience. Ostrander's love of the cowboy genre is apparent, but his work turns slightly gooey after the violent gutsy start to the series with the heroes rushing to save Apache children and having the inevitable train fight. (MAT) 6

Avengers 60

by Johns & Dwyer + Remender

The Avengers battle Scorpio to save the Inbetweener. Writer Geoff Johns has a lot of potential: his scripting shows signs of both light-heartedness and complexity, although fourteen team members are a little too many. Artists Kieron Dwyer and Rick Remender go out with a fizzle rather than a bang, but not to worry: upcoming guest artists include Brits Gary Frank and Alan Davis. (CEB) 5

Captain Marvel 3

by David & ChrisCross + Sotomayor

<=> How does an imprisoned Rick Jones and an insane Captain Marvel lead to the latter acquiring a new costume? To find out you'll have to do what I've been recommending for months: buy this wondrously written and distinguishably drawn comicbook. (CEB) 9

Daredevil 39

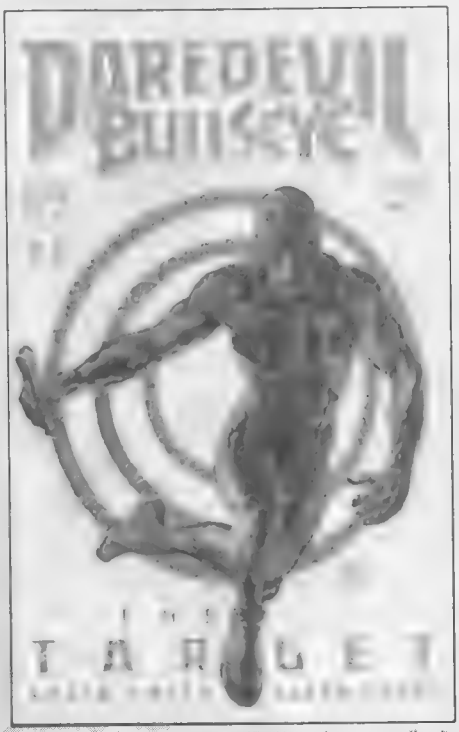
by Bendis & Gutierrez; Marvel Knights

<+> Daredevil's confrontations turn from the streets to the courtroom as Matt acts as defence in a superhero case that cuts close after recent revelations. Brian Michael Bendis expertly builds up the tension with this legal drama, and even Manuel Gutierrez's art – illustrating the heroes who come to the defence of their fallen comrade – shows some marked improvement after the previous issue. (MAT) 6

Fantastic Four 63

by Waid & Wieringo + Kesel

<-> Reed Richards has always thrown caution to the wind in his scientific endeavours and now, it appears, this habit has caught up with him in the deadly Modulus. Paradoxically, it's this very same leniency that might save the day. Between the action, Mark Waid still finds time to let the characters shine, which they wouldn't do half as much if not for the terrific art of Mike Wieringo. (CEB) 8



Daredevil/ Bullseye – The Target 1

by Smith & Fabry; Marvel Knights

Although a terrorism-led story may now be old hat, it's a cap which fits Smith well, as his superb characterisation makes up for all the clichés that abound herein, Glenn Fabry's take on DD mixes Quesada's dynamism with a touch of Gene Colan to suitably gritty effect. (LN) 7

Kevin Smith redeems himself after the frankly disappointing mess that was Spider-Man/Black Cat. Here the writing is sharper, the dialogue sounds like the Smith of old, and the plot (terrorists hiring Bullseye to kill an as yet unspecified target) seems well suited to the miniseries format. Glen Fabry's art looks a little scratchy in places, but that aside I'm happy that Mr Smith is back on form (RN) 7

Kevin Smith returns to Daredevil, producing another disappointing series after his below-par Spidey work. Smith's attempts at being cutting edge are cringeworthy: his 9/11 commentary is superfluous if not downright exploitative; his evil terrorists even more offensively clichéd than those in Captain America and to top it all, Bullseye forsakes his (admittedly silly) costume in bizarre coherence to the upcoming movie. Fortunately Glen Fabry's art is consistently the saving grace. (MAT) 5

Incredible Hulk 47

by Jones & Immonen + Kolbish

<=> Bruce Jones provides some exposition for the last few confusing issues, as the delirious Banner is once again drawn to the trail of the missing boy, closely followed by various ever-regenerating special agents in 4x4s. Although Jones's work is a welcome relief from the Hulk of old, I'm getting bored of Banner without even feeling the ever-present threat of the Hulkster. Gimme some green-skinned action now! (MAT) 6

Killraven 2

by Davis & Farmer

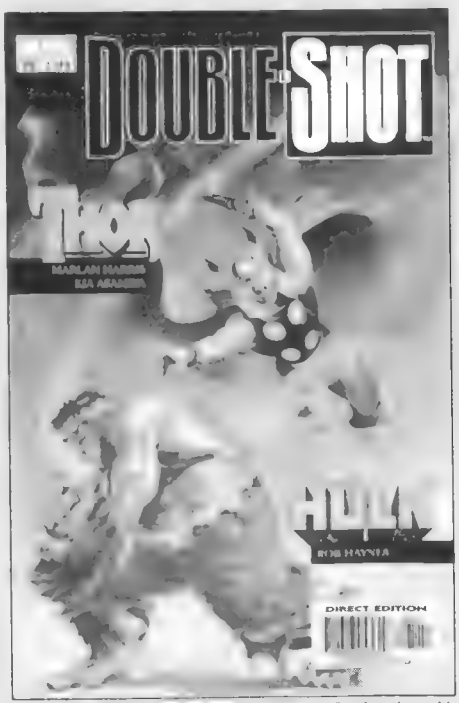
<=> Marvel is getting seriously retro at the moment. Alan Davis's art captures the feel of the Neal Adams debut issue of the original series, but the comic then suffers from Davis's insistence on writing as well as drawing the series. Compared to the later issues of Amazing Adventures (a milestone in rich poetic storytelling in the 1970s) the dialogue and set pieces here feel like a sanitised version of the original. Everything you remember from the '70s series is present and accounted for but somehow none of it feels quite right. This certainly deserves an 'A' for effort though. (RN) 6

<=> More naïve '70s sci-fi fun as Killraven and his spandex jumpsuit-clad team escape the charms of green bounty hunter Mint Julep and her mutant gang in Alan Davis's miniseries. As ever, Davis's clean lines and action-packed panels are well suited to illustrating the muscle-bound heroes that dominate his work, but his stories retain a simplistic charm that fails to live up to the expectations of a modern audience. (MAT) 6

Marvel Double-Shot 1

by various; Marvel Knights

Rob Haynes fails to grab the imagination with his flawed attempt at a Hulk short story, with the art not a patch on his renowned Daredevil stint. A series of letters to Thor reveal an unfortunate unfolding of a fan's life and her volatile faith in him. The art by Kia Asamiya is purely preferential. Personally I don't enjoy manga style in American comics. A place for everything, and everything in its place. (CDB) 4



Marvel turns some top talents loose on their characters for a new series of the dual story comic. Rob Haynes shows there's more to his artwork than cartoon cel animation with a more loosely drawn style. Unfortunately his story of an imitation Hulk is similarly loose and slightly confusing. Marlan Harris opts for a different narrative style, as manga artist Kia Asamiya's pin-ups illustrate a woman's lifelong letters to Thor. As with Marvel's previous attempts, the limited space pushes the writers' abilities, but an intriguing mix of talents is still lined up. (MAT) 6

Shang Chi Master of Kung Fu 3

by Moench & Gulacy + Palmiotti; MAX Comics

<+> With the realisation that his father still lives, Shang Chi finds himself once again wrapped in the machinations of Fu Manchu. Nostalgic but fresh, this is an A grade title. It just goes to show how a tired concept can be reignited with the right team on board. Like the Punisher before him, Shang Chi has been resurrected and elevated to new heights. (CDB) 8

<=> Nostalgia doesn't come much better than the original '70s MOKF. But reading this new miniseries decades later feels like listening to Pink Floyd's The Division Bell and expecting it to recapture the feel of A Saucerful of Secrets. The formula that was such fun in the mid-Seventies now feels very dated and creaks worse than a rusty saloon door. (RN) 6

Soldier X 5

by Macan & Kordey

<=> Traditional X-fans may continue to hanker after the early big-guns-and-shoulder-pads era, but Darko Macan and Igor Kordey continue to push Nathan Summers in a more down-to-earth direction. His enemies may be Armenian gangsters intent on the life of a young girl rather than evil mutants intent on world domination, but this allows them to focus on the man out of time rather than his latest fanciful hardware. (MAT) 6

New X-Men 134

by Morrison & Grant + Rapmund

<+++> Xavier's is preparing for its first open day, but teen rebellion is a lot more serious when the students have powers. Grant Morrison delivers the goods here with a packed yet actionless issue, and the art team provides some solid, almost Frank Quitely-esque art which only jars occasionally. (MT) 8

<=> After the intergalactic threats, international terrorists and the shadow of a phoenix, Grant Morrison turns his interests to the tensions between the students of the school and their teachers, as a young outsider finds himself further ostracised. Keron Grant's pencilling — after Ethan van Sciver's sudden departure — produces some pleasing results, as he moves further away from the exaggerated manga-fied art of his earlier work. (MAT) 8

Tangled Web 20

by Wells & Haspiel

<+++> J. Jonah Jameson is on the psychiatrist's couch in this standout issue of a very variable series. A funny and insightful tale, thanks to a witty script by Zeb Wells and fluid artwork from Dean Haspiel. (SH) 7

Thor 56

by Jurgens & Bennet + Jadson

<=> When Thor attempts to help Earth, he is accused of dictatorship and the usurpation of the World's religious faiths. Dan Jurgens poses the dilemma of a more proactive God as opposed to a silent observer. I just hope this epic is not resolved by a cliché, when Jurgens has maintained suspense and originality in this, his best work to date. (CDB) 7

Ultimate Spider-Man 30

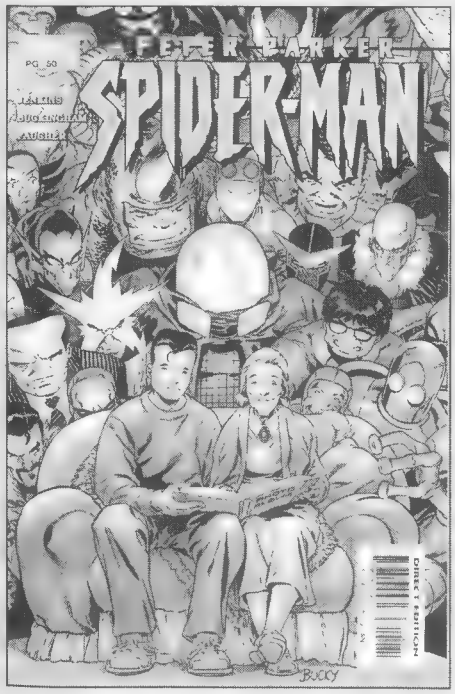
by Bendis & Bagley + Thibert

<+> A shot-up Peter Parker has to escape

Peter Parker, Spider-Man 50

by Jenkins & Buckingham + Faucher

<=> Peter fills in May on his costumed career. Didn't JMS just cover this in Amazing (and do a much better job)? The Hammerhead interludes are a great deal more fun however and welcome diversions from the soppy sod that is Jenkins' Peter Parker. Mark Buckingham's simplistic Spidey is both a boon and a bane for this book. (LN) 5



<=> Months after Straczynski covered the territory in Amazing Spider-Man, Peter tells Aunt May about him being Spider-Man, and they talk about feelings. There's a little action slapstick subplot too, which isn't funny, and the bland, bland art doesn't help any either. This Peter Parker bears little resemblance to his appearances elsewhere, perhaps this title is set in one of those crazy alternate whinyloser-verses, and I've just missed the point. (MT) 1

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from the police and a hospital as the Spider-Man impersonator presumably goes free after robbing the bank. The urgency of not getting caught, by Aunt May rather than the police, is almost palpable. It's good to see a mainstream book hitting this many highs.(MT) 8

The Vision 4

by Johns & Reis

<-> The Vision recovers more of his human emotions. A disappointing conclusion to an otherwise entertaining series. Although impressive, the art is at times confusing and the script seems slightly trivial, revealing nothing of consequence, and leaving the status quo firmly unaltered. Certainly had potential for better. (CDB) 6

Wolverine 183

by Tieri & Chen + Palmer

<=> Despite Axel Alonso's out-of-costume direction, Frank Tieri continues to do a good job of badly aping the worst of gangster flicks whilst mixing in his faintly ridiculous villains and "gosh cripey" dialogue; whereas Sean Chen's art, although greatly enhanced by the colouring team and Tom Palmer's inks, still suffers from some creaky character poses. Meanwhile Matt Nixon teams up with the Wizard World contest winner, in a traditional Logan/Lady Deathstrike showdown allowing Ryan Bodenheim to flex his fan-art talent. (MAT) 5

X-Statix 5

by Milligan & Pope

<=> Paul Pope lends his stylish artwork for an issue, as the image-conscious team receives a new member, the young fan/villain of the last story-arc, whilst the media is eager to reveal the identity of this newest recruit. Pete Milligan reveals the lengths The Orphan will go to to end his threat, uncovering a darker side to the character and shaking the ever-turbulent boat once again. (MAT) 7

X-Treme X-Men: X-pose 1

by Claremont & Ranson

I admit it, I thought I was cured of Claremontitis, but then Arthur Ranson comes along - with his beautifully realistic artwork – and pushes me back to square one on my road to recovery... Chris Claremont's script remains rather wordy, but makes sense in the context of interviews as the X-Treme team open themselves up to public scrutiny by some open-minded journalists. But are things set to be turned against them? (MAT) 6

US Indies

Gloom Cookie 14

by Valentino & Burns; Amaze Ink/Slave Labor Graphics

<+> Gloom Cookie continues to improve after the listlessness at the tail end of John Gebbia's stint as artist. This issue is slightly marred by expository captions (explaining what's happening and who the characters are in a bid to attract new readers), but moves the plot forwards, and builds to a stylish cliffhanger. (DM) 7

Truth: Red, White & Black 1

by Morales & Baker; Marvel Knights

1940s America. Three very different black men struggle to find a place in a hostile world. The art is idiosyncratic but strangely fitting, and the writing is thoughtful and well constructed, but there remains a definite feeling that we've seen this kind of thing before. (KG) 7

In this nicely paced opener, we are shown the paths taken by Isaiah, Maurice and Luke to the army's Super Soldier Project. Morales' decision to showcase more than one participant produces a more plausible take on the subject matter. Kyle Baker's talent for distinctive facial expressions aids the writer's efforts to differentiate his creations. (LN) 7

Playing on racial tensions still apparently present in American society, Marvel dares to reveal the secrets behind the creation of their all-American hero. After the controversy surrounding Wolverine's origins, I hate to think what Cap fans will make of this; besides revealing the original Cap was – shock – black, Kyle Baker's expressive and colourful art is a daring far cry from the slick Marvel norm. (MAT) 7

The Incal 12

by Jodorowsky & Janjetov; Humanoids Publishing

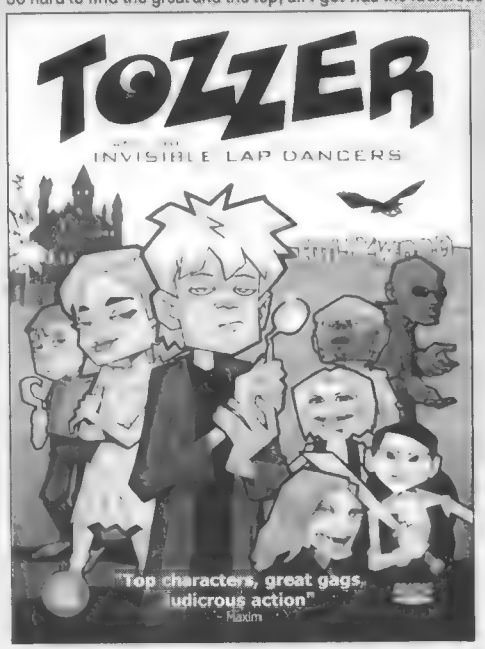
<=> The antics of the denizens of City-Shaft may echo a certain mega-city, but this satirical series concerns inept detectives and spiritual forces rather than fascistic cops. The last monthly issue of Alexandro Jodorowsky's crazed sci-fi opus begins to develop the mystic storylines upon which the original Moebius-drawn series was based; unfortunately we'll have to wait for the graphic novels to see their conclusion. Perhaps that Travis Charest series is swallowing their budget? (MAT) 7

UK Independent

Tozzer and the Invisible Lap Dancers

by Dunlop & Lumby; Ablaze Media

A full colour digest-sized graphic novel, this runs the Maxim cover quote "Top characters, great gags, ludicrous action". Which speaks volumes for Maxim's taste. I tried so hard to find the great and the top, all I got was the ludicrous. The humour is banal (M&M renamed S&M, Austin Powers becomes Golden Showers, ad nauseum), the plot is mindless and the script appalling. Which is a great shame as the art, colouring and production values are first rate. One can only imagine that author Rob Dunlop is Ablaze Media's owner (or his son). No editor would have approved such an asinine script. After reading it, I actually felt annoyed at the author for wasting an hour of my life. At £5.99, the only value it offers is as a showcase for Peter Lumby's enchanting art. (TM) 4



Little White Mouse: Open Space 1

by Sizer; Blue Line Pro

Little White Mouse is back for a third volume with Loo now off the satellite. First stop goes badly as an old hippy forgets his former values and attempts to take her for a ride. Paul Sizer's Darrow influences come to the fore and the scene where Loo stops a military issue android by dangling a can of fizzy pop is priceless. (JL) 6

SPX 2002

by various; CBLDF

In reviewing last year's Small Press Expo, I bemoaned the penchant for autobiography that infests the small press scene. So what do they do this year? Produce an entirely biographical issue of course – with creators given a few pages to cover a generally famous person's life. This is an arduous read, not aided by tiny print on tiny pages at times. Despite covering a number of bizarre characters the stories tend to be earth-shatteringly mundane, with art as an afterthought in many. Those who have read Michael Ondaatje's Coming Through Slaughter may well be interested by the Belloq depicted here, I recommend that they read the piece where they find it then replace the book on the shelf. (JL) 4

UK Titles

Armageddon Patrol 4: The Maiden America Special

by Short & Paterson; Alchemy Texts

<+> Either Lietenant Wynonna Stone (aka Maiden America) is the ugliest woman in comics or newcomer Alex Patterson is the wrong choice of artist for John A Short's superheroes-in-Vientnam series. Assuming the former, Patterson is an accomplished artist, with a fine eye for detail, movement and page layout. A brutal read, with no holds barred and no real heroes, sure to appeal to those pre-Ennis Punisher fans who like their action raw. (TM) 7

The Beano 3150

by various; DC Thomson

The Beano was awarded Best Comic Ever at Comics 2002's National Comics Awards and it's easy to see why. Anyone growing up in Britain will have encountered this wonderful weekly anthology at some point. Classic characters like Dennis the Menace, The Bash Street Kids and Minnie the Minx are as anarchic as ever, and the comic itself is bright, colourful and packed with fun. (SM) 8

Commando 3575- 3576

by various; DC Thomson

<=> *Zone of Fear* is a contemporary germ-warfare thriller probably inspired by the novels of Tom Clancy. The story rattles along at a fine pace, and the uncredited artwork looks like that of the excellent John Ridgway. Meanwhile, *Private in Command* sees a resourceful Desert Rat infantryman take on the wrath of four high-ranking officers during WWII. Great fun for nostalgia buffs, with eight of these yarns available every month. (SM) 7

Raven

by various; Ariel Press

Not only amazing value at £1 for 36 slick pages, but promised to be on a monthly schedule, Raven features the long-overdue return of Vince Danks' paranormal espionage strip *Sapphire*, together with Roger Gibson's horror and black comedy outing, *The Bishop*, and Marc Wayne-Barrett's *Fleet Street Tales* (starring Dan Druff). Possibly the brightest UK independent title since Strangehaven, it's available in most London shops and should soon be fully distributed through Diamond and Red Route. Seek it out or log on to ravencomic.co.uk to order direct. (TM) 9

Warhammer Monthly 63

by various; Games Workshop

<=> Still going strong, and still ignored by the bulk of comics readers. Possibly put off by the steep £3.95 price tag for a comic-sized 68 page black and white title, fans are missing a good mix of established first rate talent and impressive newcomers. Known names include Gordon Rennie, Colin McNeill, Anthony Williams, Kev Hopgood, Dylan Teague and the ubiquitous Dan Abnett, sprinkled among an assortment of rising stars in eight strips covering science fiction, pirates and fantasy. All the title lacks is a strong lead character – a Judge Dredd, Tank Girl or Marvelman – bring this title to the attention of a non RPG audience. (TM) 7

Small Press

Cruel World 8

by Emdin;
£2.50 from Smallzone
10 Cleveland Avenue
High Ercall, Telford
Shropshire TF6 6AH

Depraved, paranoid, juvenile – three words that easily sum up Aussie creator Anton Emdin's brash, inventive mind-trip into a skewed cartoon world reminiscent of the underground stylings of Charles Burns, Hunt Emerson, '70s artist Rick Griffin and classic strip Felix the Cat. Emdin's clean, professional brushwork is supported by the book's equally competant design and production values. (JE) 8

Mice in the Cat Food

by Mason;
write for details to:
18c Tompion Street
London EC1V 0HN

In Roger Mason's science fiction romp, the mice of the title are plucky humans infesting an alien canning factory, surviving the factory management's various attempts to kill them. Like with all the best science fiction, the setting is familiar, but with a twist of weirdness. This fun-filled action-packed tale of men as mice really is small press comics at its absolute best. (RC) 9

The 0 Men 17

by Eden;
£1.50 from M. Eden,
19a Trevalyan Road
Tooting, London SW17 9LS

<+> Eclipse is defeated and Miss Scarlet's mysterious past is made a little less mysterious. A subtly cerebral set of concepts drive this highly interesting plot, and the artwork is some of the best yet in this series. (KG) 9

Second

by Gauld & Lia;
£5 from Smallzone
10 Cleveland Avenue
High Ercall, Telford
Shropshire TF6 6AH

Behind its considered, understated cover, this 48-page collection of esoteric strips from amateur creators Tom Gauld and Simone Lia displays both a spartan, child-like cartooning and a nod to Moebius' more simplistic, yet highly rendered approach. The differing styles gel wonderfully, due to the creator's deft design sense and their shared wry humour. At times oblique, always faintly surreal, this well-produced title is a chilled-out read for those in need of an antidote to reality. (JE) 8

Slab Comix

by Miers;
£2 from John Miers,
66a Settles Street
London E1 1JP

Described by the writer/artist/publisher as "28 pages of drudgery and failed romance", this title is absolutely wonderful. Unique, charming and pretty incomprehensible, it's anything but a speed read. You'll probably have to read it at least twice to get any of the jokes, but it's certainly worth the effort. Such an unusual style, this could be the next Mr Men. Which is nice. (TM) 8

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COULD you please tell me why there is such a big difference in the exchange rate of comics?

I receive several comics every month by mail order, and my supplier always includes the dollar price (for example $2.99 = £2.25). However, when I recently visited a Sheffield store, I was charged £2.65 for the same $2.99 cover price. When I asked the manager about this he showed me a chart which indeed showed $2.99 as £2.65. Surely the US dollar can't be worth almost 90p to the pound? And if it is, there's no wonder comics collectors are dwindling in numbers.

For the Q&A Brains Trust, Dez Skinn replies: You'll probably find UK prices for US comics different in every city you visit. New shops often discount to establish themselves, while rival shops in the same area can get into heated price wars. Mail order is invariably cheaper than shops because of the reduced overheads. There's no recommended retail price, so it's down to the individual outlet to find a price which covers their rent, rates, staff and such (plus unsold leftovers!) while being competitive.

Deep discounting may please customers in the short term, but many an outlet has lost out using this approach, going out of business because their prices were too low. Others, while not being the cheapest around, build up their rep by offering a reliable quality service.

In brief, the only answer is to shop around and find somebody who suits you both in price and reliability.

Mystery strip

Brian Cameron via e-mail: address withheld by request

DOES anyone remember a UK strip from the early Sixties, possibly in **Victor** or **Hotspur**, which featured flying cars, the mysterious occupants of which used a gas, which ate through walls, to commit robberies?

I used to draw lots of sketches inspired by this strip and I've no idea why it should come back to me after all these years but its irritating that I can't remember anything more of a feature which so impressed me then.

And, what comic did Kelly's Eye feature in?

*Lew Stringer: Kelly's Eye originally appeared in the last issues of **Knockout** weekly around 1962, before it merged into **Valiant** a year later, where it remained until the 1970s. Reprints of the strip appeared throughout the **Vulcan** comic in the mid-70s.*

As for the flying car story; the only one I can think of is the car in The Whizzers of Oz, *in **The Topper**, currently being reprinted in DC Thomson's **Classics From the Comics** monthly.*

Geoff Senior

Martyn Stembridge via e-mail: martyn@stembridge.fsworld.co.uk

PLEASE could someone let me know if Geoff Senior is still involved in comics? Growing up as a huge Transformers fan it is his art that I remember the most. He had a powerful style that has never been matched in my humble opinion. I would love to see his art grace one of the new Transformers comics!

Lew Stringer: I was talking to Geoff in the summer as he was a fellow guest at the Transforce convention in Croydon. I think most of his illustration work is outside of comics now.

Marvel Bumper Comic

Peter Hodgson via e-mail: p_nova1@hotmail.com

JUST like to say that I enjoyed the **Combat Colin 2000** comic I got from Lew Stringer at *Transforce 2002*. My question is, why don't the price guides list the Marvel UK late '80s title **Marvel Bumper Comic**? It lasted 30 issues (#9 was a Transformers special) but it isn't listed or sold anywhere.

*Lew Stringer: Nice to hear that you enjoyed the **Combat Colin Special**, Peter. Regarding why price guides don't list **Marvel Bumper Comic** I suspect they feel they're not collectable enough to bother with. There's always been a snooty attitude towards British comics from certain areas of UK fandom (which is mainly a carbon copy of US fandom, as any comic shop proves). Things are slowly changing though, with some fans finally catching onto the fact that – shock horror – some British comics were actually quite well crafted. Comics of the Eighties are coming under the nostalgia spotlight now, so with old copies of **Transformers** turning up at comic marts and increasing in price, perhaps **Bumper Comic** will resurface too.*

Picture Libraries

Sean O'Grady via e-mail: sean@supernova.fsbusiness.co.uk

WHILE I am aware that **Thriller Picture Library** overtook **Cowboy Picture Library** and the assembled artists were producing various comics in parallel – for example Sexton Blake – who were the principal artists on **Cowboy Picture Library**, and who mostly produced the Kansas Kid? And, can you tell me who now owns the copyright to **Cowboy Picture Library**?

*Steve Holland: There were dozens of artists on the series, many of them identified in **Cowboy Comics Library: An Illustrated Guide** by David Ashford and Steve Holland (A & B Whitworth, 1993) which is available from Bryon Whitworth, L'Hopiteau, St. Martin du Fouilloux 79420, France. (Email: user218763@aol.com for availability). The current copyright holder is IPC, now owned by American super conglomerate AOL Time Warner.*

*David Roach: I don't know for certain who currently owns the **Cowboy Picture Library** archives but I imagine it was sold on to Egmont when they bought up Fleetway, though I doubt they were even aware of the depth of material they were inheriting. That said, at some point in the late '80s a lot of the **War Picture Library** and **Western Picture Library** back catalogue was licensed out to someone called Ron Phillips who I vaguely recall being an ex-Fleetway employee [He had been the managing director: Dez]. He brought out a fair number of **War**, **Battle**, **Air Ace** and **Battler Britton** comics and summer specials and at least two Western holiday specials which reprinted some terrific **Cowboy Picture Library** strips. Since nothing else has appeared for over a decade I'd guess that the licence has expired, but who knows?*

*As for **Cowboy Picture Library** itself (or **Cowboy Comics** as it was originally titled) like its companion books **Thriller** and **Super Detective** it started off with a fine roster of British artists who were then gradually replaced by Spanish and Italian artists. Amongst the British artists were hardy perennials Geoff Campion, Graham Coton, Reg Bunn, Robert and Jackie Forrest, Charles (Captain Hurricane) Roylance, Tony Weare, Ron Embleton, Peter Sutherland and Selby Donnison. The Kansas Kid was drawn by a cast of thousands but most early adventures were drawn by Roylance with Jorge Macabich later becoming a regular contributor.*

For my money the comic's glory years were 1960 to 1962 when it could draw upon some of the world's top artists such as Arturo Del Castillo, Jesus Blasco, Carlos V. Roume, Alberto Salinas, Sergio Tarquinio, Jose Bielsa and the great Alberto Breccia. Typically, the rather parochial British comics collectors are less interested in this period because it was dominated by "damn foreigners" but that's their loss. It's also worth pointing out that many of these comics are eminently readable, including one issue by a certain Michael Moorcock!

Tin Lizzie

Tim Barnes via e-mail

WHEN did Tin Lizzie (after whom the seminal Irish rock band were named) appear in **The Dandy**? I've seen various strips from about 1955 to 1958, but don't know which were the first and last issues, or whether the series ran uninterrupted.

*Lew Stringer: A popular character of the 1950s apparently. Ray Moore's excellent **Dandy Monster Index** describes* Tin Lizzie *as "The comic adventures of Professor James Puffin and his robot maid Tin Lizzie who embark on a mission to South America". Or "some rich old geezer having a fling with the home help" as it would no doubt be reimagined in a postmodern version. The first series, drawn by Jack Prout, appeared in **The Dandy** #592 to 622 (1953). A text story series appeared a year later, in issues 651 to 674, again illustrated by Prout. In 1955/56, it returned as a*

Answer Updates

Readers provide answers for previous issues' questions

Massimo Belardinelli

David Lloyd via e-mail

DAVID ROACH mentioned me in his *Q&A* reply (**CI#153**), saying I had information on certain **2000 AD** original art dealers. All I know about Bellardinelli art for sale is that almost 10 years ago Fleetway gave a huge chunk of it – with the artist's permission, I believe – to a dealer trading under the name of B&P Valentine.

This dealer had a sideline in obtaining art by deception (and was convicted for it), but operated legitimately for some artists. Ian Gibson, for example, supplied him with art to sell on his behalf, and told me he had no problems to report concerning it. This dealer may well be trading again, somewhere, under another name, but I doubt that any of that Bellardinelli art is still in his possession. Although you never can tell.

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*comic strip (**Dandy** #721 to 751) drawn by Jack Prout and Charlie Grigg. Prout drew all of the fourth and final series in 1957/58 (#816 to 835). The character also appeared in **The Dandy Book** in 1955 to 1958, and 1960. Tin Lizzie hasn't appeared since, but the slapstick robot theme was presumably the inspiration for **The Dandy**'s Brassneck which ran for many series from Christmas 1964.*

Wondercar

Roger Newson
32 Rosemary Avenue
Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9HX

COULD you please provide any background information on the *Wondercar* comic strip from the 1970s editions of **Whizzer and Chips**? Who drew the illustrations? Who were the characters? How long did it run for? And so on.

*Lew Stringer: I knew I shouldn't have thrown out those old **Whizzer & Chips** comics! I can't remember the characters or how long it ran for (two years at most I imagine) but the artwork was by Ron Turner.*

*Dez Skinn: Having been a lowly sub on **Whizzer & Chips** at the time, I can confirm Lew's right. It was Ron Turner who drew the strip, from scripts by Fleetway mainstay Scott Goodall. A more down to earth version of Gerry Anderson's* Supercar, *it featured a couple of kids and a dotty professor (?) flying around the country and solving crimes. I'd guess at the strip starting around March 1970 and, as Lew says, ending two years later.*

Missing dog

G Springford via e-mail:
frostboy_3000@yahoo.co.uk

CAN anyone tell me what happened to The Beast's dog Sassafras? Was he put down between the last issue of **The Defenders** and **X-Factor** #1 or does someone need to get in touch with the RSPCA pronto? And while we're on the subject – whatever happened to The Defenders' housekeeper Dolly?

*Lew Stringer: I suspect the dog has been completely forgotten about in Marvel's current activity of pissing on its own continuity. Don't even get me started on why Geoff Johns reimagined The Vision as a robot, after he's been written as a synthezoid for the past 34 years. Or how the prototype Vision's METAL leg could catch fire in **Vision** #1. Grumble... gripe....*

Mystery graphic novel

John Seamons via e-mail:
johnseamons@hotmail.com

I AM trying to track down a DC graphic novel from the mid-'80s. The only things that I can remember about it are that it had a sci-fi theme and that the characters were trying to find this anteater-like creature that laid very valuable eggs. Any ideas?

OK, readers. Here's your chance to have your say and show us what knowledgeable sorts you all are. Let's have a few theories for next issue on the above and following questions which our panel of experts haven't seen.

Lady Shiva checklist?

Alex Alexander
15 Humes Avenue
Hanwell, London W7 2LJ

COULD you publish a checklist of the villainess known as Lady Shiva from DC Comics?

Zenith checklist?

Mark Currie via e-mail:
Mark.Currie@otis.com

COULD anyone give me a definitive Zenith checklist? Have all the episodes gone into Titan book form?

Charles Burns

Mark Currie via e-mail:
mark@kjcomputers.co.uk

COULD any reader present me with a Charles Burns checklist?

Marvel's missing message boards

Chris D. Bowen via e-mail

A YEAR ago Marvel.com had a fantastic messageboard going, and bragged about the number of hits it was receiving. Then the boards went off-line while the website was being revamped, only to be advertised as coming soon when the site went live again. And then..? Silence.

The boards mysteriously vanished and endless e-mails to YourMan@Marvel fell on deaf ears. It's not like YourMan@ to keep quiet. As Marvel's mouthpiece, he is usually the proverbial chatterbox. So, will the boards reappear or not I wonder?

The Badger

El Sloano
177 Wellshot Rd, Glasgow G32 7AU

CAN anyone tell me which issue of **Badger** featured a letter from someone who'd seen a natural history film in school that showed a fight between a badger and... uh... Wolverine? (Of course the badger won, 'Nuff Said!)

And what Punisher comic ran a letter from a karate expert telling of his experience beating up a dope dealer on campus?

Brubaker detoured?

Peter Rowe
17 Rockliffe Road
Middlesbrough TS5 5DL

AS A fan of small press comics I often find it frustrating waiting for the next issue of my favourite titles. But can you tell me if Ed Brubaker's **Detour** ever made it past issue one?

Wouldn't it be great if all collector stores were this cool?

... but then they'd all be branches of INTO THE VOID!

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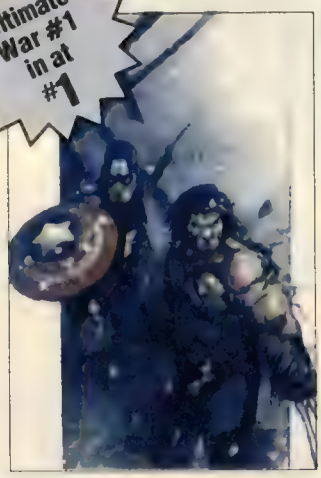
Comics Economics

The Top 100 US comicbook sales for December 2002

Ultimate War #1 in at #1



Ultimate War #2 in at #2

Rank	Prior	Title, Issue, Price & Estimated Orders	Publisher
1	(N)	**Ultimate War** #1 $2.25 (122,884)	Marvel
2	(1)	**Ultimate War** #2 $2.25 (116,013)	Marvel
3	(6)	**Batman** #610 $2.25 (109,415)	DC Comics
4	(3)	**Ultimates** #9 $2.25 (101,811)	Marvel
5	(8)	**Ultimate Spider-Man** #33 $2.25 (99,404)	Marvel
6	(4)	**New X-Men** #135 $2.25 (96,154)	Marvel
7	(5)	**Amazing Spider-Man** #48 $2.25 (93,867)	Marvel
8	(=)	**Ultimate Spider-Man** #32 $2.25 (92,160)	Marvel
9	(11)	**Uncanny X-Men** #416 $2.25 (88,276)	Marvel
10	(9)	**Ultimate X-Men** #26 $2.25 (87,893)	Marvel
11	(12)	**Transformers War Within** #3 $2.95 (73,385)	DreamWave
12	(14)	**Transformers Armada** #6 $2.95 (67,870)	DreamWave
13	(=)	**Ultimate Daredevil & Elektra** #2 $2.25 (67,761)	Marvel
14	(13)	**Ultimate Daredevil & Elektra** #3 $2.25 (66,360)	Marvel
15	(16)	**Wolverine** #184 $2.25 (64,620)	Marvel
16	(1)	**Masters of the Universe** #2 $2.95 (62,454)	Image
17	(=)	**JLA** #76 $2.25 (61,557)	DC Comics
18	(15)	**Truth** #2 $3.50 (60,889)	Marvel
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 60,000			
19	(20)	**Captain America** #7 $2.99 (57,410)	Marvel Knights
20	(19)	**Thundercats** #5 $2.95 (57,257)	DC/WildStorm
21	(26)	**Avengers** #61 $2.25 (55,506)	Marvel
22	(21)	**Avengers** #62 $2.25 (55,145)	Marvel
23	(22)	**GI Joe** #13 $2.95 (54,904)	Image
24	(23)	**Daredevil** #40 $2.99 (54,292)	Marvel Knights
25	(=)	**Green Arrow** #20 $2.50 (53,745)	DC Comics
26	(N)	**Robotech** #1 $2.95 (53,023)	DC/WildStorm
27	(21)	**Peter Parker, Spider-Man** #51 $2.25 (52,968)	Marvel
28	24)	**X-Treme X-Men X-Pose** #2 $2.99 (51,020)	Marvel
29	(28)	**League of Extraordinary Gentlemen Vol II** #5 $3.50 (50,823)	DC/ABC
30	(28)	**Fantastic Four** #64 $2.25 (50,211)	Marvel
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 50,000			
31	(29)	**Incredible Hulk** #48 $2.25 (48,668)	Marvel
32	(N)	**Robotech** #0 $2.50 (47,880)	DC/WildStorm
33	(27)	**GI Joe Frontline** #3 $2.95 (47,300)	Image
34	(N)	**Aquaman** #1 $2.50 (45,112)	DC Comics
35	(30)	**Punisher** #20 $2.99 (43,514)	Marvel Knights
36	(33)	**JSA** #43 $2.50 (41,249)	DC Comics
37	(35)	**Detective Comics** #777 $2.75 (40,867)	DC Comics
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 40,000			
38	(36)	**Spawn** #129 $2.50 (39,072)	Image /TMP
39	(31)	**Battle of the Planets** #6 $2.99 (38,208)	Image
40	(37)	**Green Lantern** #157 $2.25 (37,869)	DC Comics
41	(38)	**Exiles** #20 $2.25 (36,796)	Marvel
42	(40)	**X-Men Unlimited** #40 $3.50 (36,391)	Marvel
43	(39)	**X-Statix** #6 $2.25 (35,899)	Marvel
44	(43)	**Thor** #57 $2.25 (35,286)	Marvel
45	(41)	**Weapon X** #4 $2.25 (34,531)	Marvel
46	(45)	**Superman** #189 $2.25 (34,488)	DC Comics
47	(44)	**Iron Man** #62 $2.25 (33,492)	Marvel
48	47)	**Iron Man** #63 $2.25 (33,350)	Marvel
49	(46)	**Batman: Gotham Knights** #36 $2.75 (33,011)	DC Comics
50	(55)	**Action Comics** #798 $2.25 (32,617)	DC Comics
51	(N)	**Batgirl: Year One** #1 $2.95 (32,343)	DC Comics
52	(57)	**Adventures of Superman** #611 $2.25 (32,080)	DC Comics
53	(47)	**Hawkman** #10 $2.50 (31,894)	DC Comics
54	(49)	**Batgirl** #35 $2.50 (31,588)	DC Comics
55	(63)	**Superman: Man of Steel** #133 $2.25 (31,577)	DC Comics
56	(50)	**Paradise X** #8 $2.99 (31,150)	Marvel
57	(53)	**Agent X** #6 $2.25 (30,603)	Marvel
58	(84)	**Captain Marvel** #4 $2.25 (30,439)	Marvel
59	(54)	**Nightwing** #76 $2.25 (30,100)	DC Comics
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 30,000			
60	(51)	**Wolverine: Netsuke** #4 $3.99 (28,973)	Marvel
61	(N)	**Authority Scorched Earth** $4.95 (28,557)	DC Comics
62	(70)	**Flash** #193 $2.25 (28,185)	DC Comics
63	(74)	**Birds of Prey** #50 $2.50 (27,879)	DC Comics
64	(69)	**Batman: Family 7 – Mr Fun** $2.25 (27,671)	DC Comics
65	(60)	**Elektra** #18 $2.99 (27,660)	Marvel Knight
66	(64)	**Batman: Family 8 – Blackout** $2.95 (27,649)	DC Comics
67	(65)	**Elektra** #19 $2.99 (27,638)	Marvel Knights
68	(69)	**Spider-Man Legend o/t Spider Clan** #3 $2.25 (27,529)	Marvel
69	(68)	**Batman: Family 6 – Technician** $2.25 (27,518)	DC Comics
70	(64)	**Alias** #17 $2.99 (27,474)	Marvel/MAX
71	(81)	**Ultimate Adventures** #4 $2.25 (27,365)	Marvel
72	(73)	**Thunderbolts** #75 $3.50 (27,233)	Marvel
73	(72)	**Batman Legends o/t Dark Knight** #162 $2.50 (26,949)	DC Comics
74	(N)	**Gotham Central** #1 $2.50 (26,785)	DC Comics
75	(=)	**Powers** #27 $2.95 (26,621)	Image
76	(N)	**Batman/Aliens II** #1 $5.95 (25,155)	DC Comics
77	(72)	**Micronauts** #4 $2.95 (25,001)	Ima
78	(77)	**Catwoman** #14 $2.50 (24,739)	DC Comics
79	(74)	**Gotham Central** #2 $2.50 (24,651)	DC Comics
80	(71)	**Mekanix** #3 $2.99 (24,487)	Marvel
81	(83)	**Spider-Girl** #54 $2.25 (24,389)	Marvel
82	(52)	**Tomb Raider** #26 $2.99 (24,257)	Image/Top Cow
83	(85)	**Robin** #109 $2.25 (24,170)	DC Comics
84	(86)	**Star Wars: Empire** #4 $2.99 (23,962)	Dark Horse
85	(89)	**Legion** #15 $2.50 (23,962)	DC Comics
86	(78)	**Shang Chi: Master of Kung Fu** #4 $2.99 (23,404)	Marvel
87	(88)	**Tangled Web** #21 $2.99 (23,360)	Marvel
88	(90)	**Sojourn** #18 $2.95 (23,284)	CrossGen
89	(82)	**Soldier X** #6 $2.25 (23,218)	Marvel
90	(93)	**Young Justice** #52 $2.75 (22,758)	DC Comics
91	(91)	**The Filth** #7 $2.95 (22,736)	DC Comics
92	(97)	**Fables** #8 $2.50 (22,222)	DC Comics
93	(92)	**Ghost i/t Shell 2: Man Machine Interface** #3 $3.50 (21,478)	Dark Horse
94	(=)	**Global Frequency** #3 $2.95 (21,369)	DC Comics
95	(97)	**The Titans** #48 $2.75 (21,336)	DC Comics
96	(93)	**Star Wars Tales** #14 $5.99 (20,876)	Dark Horse
97	(76)	**Marvel Double Shot** #2 $2.99 (20,548)	Marvel
98	(89)	**Supergirl** #77 $2.50 (20,307)	DC Comics
99	(95)	**Star Wars Republic** #49 $2.99 (19,990)	Dark Horse
100	(99)	**Tom Strong** #19 $2.95 (19,957)	DC/ABC

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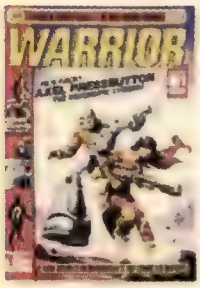
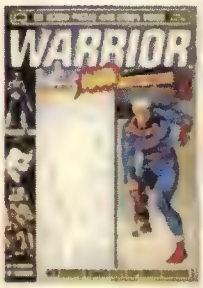


Warrior 1 .. £5.00/$7.50

Cover: Steve Dillon. **Marvelman** (A Moore + Leach), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Shandor** (S Moore + Bolton), **Prester John** (S Moore + Bolton) + Gibbons short story



Warrior 2 .. £4.00/$6.00

Cover: Garry Leach. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Leach), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **The Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Shandor** (S Moore + Bolton), **Madman** (Neary) + Baikie pinup

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Warrior 5 .. £4.00/$6.00

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Warrior 6 .. £4.00/$6.00

Cover: Steve Parkhouse. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis/Leach), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Madman** (Neary + Austin)

Warrior 7 .. £5.00/$7.50

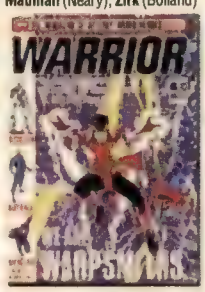
Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis/Leach), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Madman** (Neary + Austin)

Warrior 8 .. £4.00/$6.00

Cover: David Jackson. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Stir Crazy** (Hunt Emerson)

Warrior 9 .. £4.00/$6.00

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Warpsmith** (A Moore + Leach)



Warrior 10 . £4.00/$6.00

Cover: Garry Leach. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Warpsmith** (A Moore + Leach)

Warrior 11 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Garry Leach. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **The Spiral Path** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), **Legend of Prester John** (S Moore + Stokes)

Warrior 12 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover Parkhouse. *Features:* **Young Marvelman** (A Moore + Ridgway), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Austin), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Spiral Path** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), **Prester John** (S Moore + Stokes), **Bojeffries** (A Moore)

Warrior 13 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Leach. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Zirk** (Henry + Leach), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Bojeffries Saga** (A Moore & Parkhouse), **The Shroud** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), **Shandor** (S Moore & Jackson)

Warrior 14 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Jim Baikie. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Shandor** (S Moore & Jackson), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Twilight World** (S Moore & Baikie), **Ektryn** (Henry & Cam Kennedy)

Warrior 15 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Dillon), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Twilight World** (S Moore & Baikie), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), Steve Moore feature

Warrior 16 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Pressbutton** (Henry + Curt Vile), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Twilight World** (S Moore & Baikie), Dez Skinn feature

Warrior 17 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: David Jackson. *Features:* **Marvelman Family** (A Moore + Ridgway) **Shandor** (S Moore + Jackson), **Twilight World** (S Moore & Baikie), **Home is the Sailor** (Parkhouse & Ridgway), Alan Moore V for Vendetta feature

Warrior 18 . £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Steve Parkhouse. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Demon at the Gates** (Parkhouse) **Shandor** (S Moore & Jackson) **One Man's Meat** (Asbury), Garry Leach drawing feature

Warrior 19 £7.50/$10.00

Cover: Leach. *Features:* **Big Ben** (Skinn + William Simpson), **The Bojeffries Saga** (A Moore & Parkhouse), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Shandor** (S Moore & Jackson), **Swordspell** (A Booth & Jackson), Mick Austin feature

Warrior 20 £10.00/$15.00

Cover: Leach. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Big Ben** (Skinn + Simpson), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Bojeffries Saga** (A Moore & Parkhouse), **Shandor** (S Moore & Jackson), Bolton, Bolland, Gibbons feature

Warrior 21 £10.00/$15.00

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Shandor** (S Moore & Jackson), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Big Ben** (Skinn & Simpson), **Pressbutton** (Henry & Alan Davis)

Warrior 22 £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Geoff Senior. *Features:* **The Liberators** (Skinn + Ridgway), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Bogey** (Segura + Sanchez), **Big Ben** (Skinn + Simpson), Frank Bellamy interview

Warrior 23 £3.50/$5.00

Cover: Geoff Senior. *Features:* **The Liberators** (Skinn + Ridgway), **V for Vendetta** (A Moore + Lloyd), **Bogey** (Segura + Sanchez), **Big Ben** (Skinn + Simpson), Brian Bolland interview

Marvelman Special #1 (1984) ..... £5.00/$7.50

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* **Marvelman** (A Moore + Davis), **Marvelman Family** (Anglo + Lawrence), **Marvelman** (Anglo + Parker), **Big Ben** (Henry + Gibson)

Miracleman 1 £2.50/$4.00

Cover: Garry Leach. *Features:* Coloured reprints of Marvelman from **Warrior** #1-3 (A Moore + Leach) and **Marvelman Special** (A Moore + A Davis; Anglo + Lawrence)

Pressbutton 1 £2.50/$4.00

Cover: Brian Bolland. *Features:* Coloured reprints of Pressbutton from **Warrior** #1-3 (P Henry & Dillon) and **Zirk** from **Warrior** #3 (P Henry + Brian Bolland)

Pressbutton 3 £2.00/$3.00

Cover. Alan Davis. *Features:* Coloured reprints of Pressbutton **Warrior** #7-9 (P Henry & Dillon), **Ektryn** (P Henry + Kennedy), **Shroud, Spire & Stars** (Parkhouse & Ridgway)

Pressbutton 4 £2.00/$3.00

Cover: Mick Austin. *Features:* Coloured reprints of Pressbutton **Warrior** #10-11, 20 (P Henry & Dillon/Davis), **Ektryn** (P Henry + Kennedy), **Zirk** (Henry & Leach)

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Letters

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Biblioteca Marvel

Mellizos via e-mail:
mellizos72@jazzfree.com

I DISCOVERED **Comics International** some months ago while I was visiting my brother in Dublin, and I was glad to find something very useful. I live in Spain and I thought your magazine was very similar to another one, **Dolmen** (a Spanish magazine). So now every month I buy **Dolmen** and **CI** to keep me informed. Thank you very much.

I had decided to write the moment I read an article in your magazine about the situation of comics in Spain. The writer was right. We are very lucky. Planeta DeAgostini (the publisher) has been producing Biblioteca Marvel comics for four years. They started with **Fantastic Four**, **The Avengers** and **Captain America** and they succeeded.

As a matter of fact, nobody knew what could happen and certainly nobody guessed how popular they would be. After that, they published **X-Men**, a **Nick Fury** one-shot, **Nova**, a **Black Widow** one-shot, **Eternals**, **Daredevil** (as you know), **Thor**, and now **Tomb of Dracula** (not only the original series but also **Dracula Lives!** and then some!).

This last thing calls my attention because I had ordered the US **Tomb of Dracula Essential**. You know the rest, of course, it never happened! But now we have the opportunity to have the entire series in Spanish, and some extras. Maybe now Marvel will publish this material. After all, it published Steranko's **Fury** because Planeta did it here first and Steranko knew of this and had realized that Marvel wasn't going to pay him any money (I think they did later).

If Marvel doesn't publish it, then as the writer of that article said, start learning Spanish and enjoy! (And I haven't even mentioned the price; only 4,50 •).

One last thing: I have to say that Planeta and the people working there love Marvel comics and all their characters and because of this they also write several articles informing us about the series, the authors and all that. We know for sure they care.

Thank you all very much.

Don Barr's comments

Peter Hodgson via e-mail:
p_nova1@hotmail.com

RE DON Barr's *Comment* in #151: Don, why don't you place all the comics you've read in a box for a year. Then use them for something useful. Instead of binning everything, you could get money for a local charity. This way all the money will go to the selected charity, seeing that you don't want anything back.

Giving £50 extra towards a new machine or building is better than filling up the local tip.

The big score

Martin Gray via e-mail:
martingray1_@hotmail.com

TA FOR another fun **CI**. Just a quickie, on the tiny off chance you don't know... **CI** featured in 29th November's **Daily Mirror** *Scorer* strip. That'd be a suitable thing to extract as a follow-up to the marvellous **Guardian** splash that you ran this time.

In other news, I'm constantly surprised by all the attempts to snag the Marvelmiracleman licence. Has the character really ever made so much money, post-Mick Anglo, that it's worth all the hassle? What did it actually sell in the Eclipse editions?

Depends whose version you believe, the Eclipse press releases or the printer's statements. But this has become one of those matters of principal, Mart. And we all know how expensive they can be.

Big Jesse James?

Paul Gill via e-mail:
pgill@acclaimstudios.co.uk

RE: The cover of the **CI** #153. Gayest cover ever? Arf!

Indubitably, Paul, indubitably. But the funniest thing is that when Marvel started rolling out its publicity for the Rawhide Kid mini, they were still in the closet about it. There wasn't a single mention to Rawhide (unfortunate name, given the context) being gay. We just took one look at Dave Johnson's cover art (pictured above) and went for it. Even editor Axel Alonso, in his description of the title, wasn't willing to give the game away. Of course, the media has now picked up on it, with all the ignorant "first time in comics" copy, so we'd have looked pretty sad if we'd not announced the Kid being "on the scene" last month. And to think, we almost ran a Daredevil cover...

As an aside, there's a current rumour doing the rounds that the title's artist – veteran Westerner John Severin – actually drew the entire series without knowing the Kid was gay. Seems he rejected drawing a strip with an unmarried couple in bed a few years back as the octoganarian artist is a man of stern Biblical morals. But then, that's only a rumour... Dez Skinn/Editor

Whatever happened to Dick Domar's comics?

Richard Thomas via e-mail:
address withheld by request

JUST noticed a piece in October's issue (*Letters*, **CI**#150) regarding Dick Domar and his collection.

He mentions his regret in selling most of the early issues of his Silver Age comics.

Well I'm pleased to tell him that it's still intact and in living in Eastbourne. Huw Thomas (one-time artist on **Alpha Flight**, gotta name drop when you can) bought about £1000 worth of comics off Dick (all of the early **X-Men**, **Journey into Mystery** #83, etc) when he was made redundant in the Eighties. And he's kept them in perfect nick...

He now intends to hand them down to his son. Small world, eh?

Giddy nostalgia

Ian Ritchie
141 Kildare Road, London E16

YOUR latest issue filled me with a sense of giddy nostalgia. I have many fond memories of London shops such as Lewisham's Weird Fantasy and (deep breath) Dark They Were And Golden Eyed, not to mention the same time period's Marvel UK reprints.

I can never figure out why these aren't more in demand; that Kirby and Buscema art looks fabulous in black and white. And the standard of printing is often superior to the Essential Marvel books which are occasionally emerging.

Speaking of fabulous art, is there any chance some enterprising publisher could reprint Frank Bellamy's *Garth* strips? It was always a buzz turning to the letters page of the **Daily Mirror** each

Mike Kazybrid's COMIC CUTS

Script by Paul Kristian

LOOK! A LOAD OF CLERGYMEN HAVE WANDERED IN FROM THE HOTEL UPSTAIRS. MAKE UP A WALL DISPLAY OF BIBLE STORIES, LIFE OF JOHN PAUL II AND MOTHER THERESA OF CALCUTTA.
MERRY XMAS FROM MIC BUFF COMICS
BACK IN A FEW MINUTES!
DID THE VICARS BUY ANYTHING?
YES - A BOXFUL OF KNUCKLES THE MALEVOLENT NUN!

Send your script ideas to the above address and you receive the original art if yours is published.

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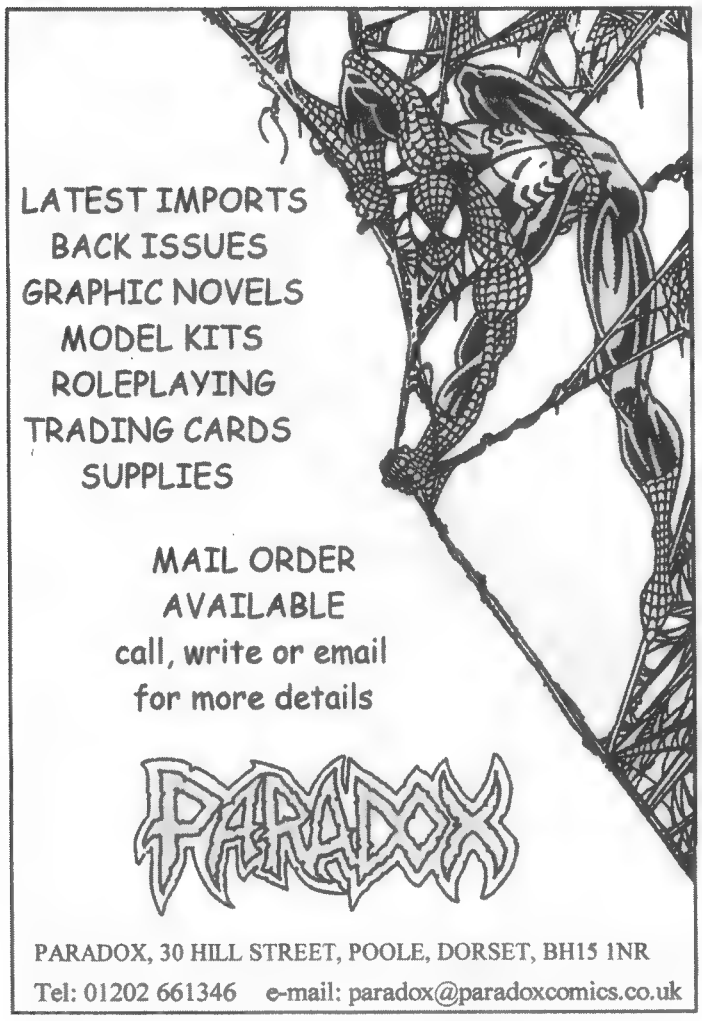

morning and seeing two to three panels of the most eye-popping artwork ever produced.

I know Titan Books brought out two collections in the Eighties, but sadly they covered material already available in the two **Garth** annuals (1975 and '76). As far as I'm aware, the Titan reprints stopped at volume two. I can only assume this was due to lack of sales.

Loking at recent revivals, not for the first time the tastes of comics fans leave me dumbfounded. Never mind bloody Transformers – bring back Robot Archie!

Despite being one of the biggest advocates of extolling the late Frank Bellamy's talents to an ignorant world, I'd have to disagree with you on the Garth reprints, Ian. Two of Frank's greatest abilities were in his page composition and his use of colour. He once admitted to me that he hated drawing Garth, having to work in black and white in three square boxes. Hardly his greatest hour.

In fact, his job was made worse by ex-Garth artist John Allard – reduced to lettering duties on the strip – putting the speech balloons and narrative panels onto an already frame-bordered strip that was then sent to Frank to "fill in the gaps".

Being the meticulous bugger he was, Frank would often scalpel out the balloons, redraw the frame shapes and sizes, and then stick the balloons back in, so he'd have greater freedom for the actual artwork. But still hardly his finest hour.

...Although I'm with you on Robot Archie (and the Steel Claw, Cursitor Doom, Grimley Fiendish and the rest!) ...Dez

More "Mad"ness

"Mad" Steven Morrell
881 Barnsley Road
Sheffield S5 0QJ

I WOULD like to thank Garry Leach for his work on **Global Frequency**. How nice to see a Lamborghini Murcielago and a Bell AH-1 Huey Cobra. Yes, a car and a helicopter that actually *look* like the real thing!

So, here we have Warren Ellis doing his take on *Doomwatch*, and it's better than the Channel 5 remake starring Trevor Eve. There again, Danny Boyle's ripped off Survivors for *28 Days Later*.

So, in this nostalgia-fest, who's going to rip off *Blake's 7*?

Comics paranoia

Julian Dass
Barnsley, South Yorkshire

THERE were a couple of interesting articles in **CI** #152, one of which almost passed by without me noticing; James Sturn commenting on his upcoming miniseries **Unstable Molecules**.

Sturm mentioned that many of Lee and Kirby's scripts for **Fantastic Four** had "to be approved by a public relations office and on several occasions by the US government" and that "stories were often rejected or drastically changed". Whoa! Is he saying that in the land of the free and the home of the brave – the arch champions of free speech – that the fundamental nature of the FF (and other Marvel superheroes?) was shaped by the government?

That Marvel (and presumably DC?) characters were essentially propaganda puppets in a medium that was subliminally indoctrinating kids in the US government policy? I know there was paranoia verging on hysteria in 1950s USA, what with the McCarthy-headed House of Un-American Activities instigating witch hunts against anybody who took their fancy.

But do you know who was appointed to this comics "public relations office"? Or what their brief was? And how many – and which – scripts were referred to "the government"?

If that's true, it sounds earth (Marvel universe, anyway) shattering to me! It's something we "Free Peoples" berated the Soviets for doing for years. Bloody hell, if the Nazis had won the war it sounds like the sort of thing *they* would have done with kids' comics. In fact, they did do it in Germany!

I suppose it would kind of moderate the sinister overtones if the PR office he's talking about was the Comics Code Authority, but what "power" did they wield?

I'm wondering if you have any more details on Sturm's comments (that you're allowed to print, you never know who's watching!).

What extraordinary fun!

Hate to burst your bubble, Julian, but it's fiction. Maybe James Sturm didn't make it clear, but the governmental censorship approach he uses as a basis for his plot was that the FF really exist along with their comicbook adventures, and it was these which were censored. Unless I'm reading it wrong. But then, the reference to scripts "being approved by the Fantastic Four's public relations office" is a bit of a giveaway.

*What intrigued me more was the throwaway final mention to two sequels to the **Unstable Molecules** mini being planned for release in 2017 and 2013. Let's hope Sturm isn't paid on publication!*

Spreading the word

Richard Brice
Gatley, Cheadle, Cheshire

CONGRATULATIONS on spreading the word about comics to an ignorant world!

Seeing the massive headline word SUPERHEROES on the cover of November's **AXM** magazine, I was both dying and dreading to read the article. Not only was I amazed that it was a fair-handed look at gay comics, as the major article in a 148 page issue, but I was pleased to see the **Comics International** credit line.

I'm used to the media usually trashing our hobby, so it's nice to see a level-handed approach every once in a while.

*Having been producing CI for over 13 years, we're often approached by the media to contribute to their comics features. But you'd be amazed how many we reject out of hand. Like the **Sunday Mirror** call only two days ago, about them running a feature on people who dress up as superheroes. Some times it just isn't worth pandering to, no matter how large the audience.*

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An at-a-glance reference guide to everything that counts in comics

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Comics creators

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ind = independent comics
u/g = underground comix
prl = peripherals/supplies
RPG = role playing games
CCG = customisable card games
merch = trading cards, videos, t-shirts, posters, etc

Sorry, no websites, this is a shop guide

When telephoning from outside the UK, drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe & Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

Central London

Avalon Comics, 143 Lavender Hill, Battersea, London SW11 5QJ. Mon-Thurs 10-5.45; Fri 10-6.30; Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 11-3.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0207924 3609

Book & Comic Exchange, 14 Pembridge Road, Notting Hill Gate, London W11. Mon-Sun 10-8. Nothing legal refused! (back, ind, u/g) 0207229 8420

Comic Showcase 63 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0NE. Sun-Wed 10-7; Thurs-Fri 10-8; Sat 9.30-8 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, cartoon books, original art) 0207434 4349

Forbidden Planet Superstore, 71-75 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DG. Mon-Wed/Sat 10-6; Thurs-Fri 10-7 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, sci-fi, fantasy, books, video, games, mags, kits, toys) 0207 420 3666

Gosh!, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH (opposite British Museum). Mon-Sun 10-6; (Thurs-Fri to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, foreign, largest range newspaper strip compilations in UK) 0207636 1011

Mega-City Comics, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon-Sun 10-6; (Thurs-Fri to 7) (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV, fantasy/horror, body art, subculture) 0207485 9320

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftsbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EH. Mon-Wed 10.30-6.30; Thurs-Sat 10-7; Sun 10-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film/TV/fantasy) 0207836 5630

Orbital, 9 Old Compton Street, London W1. Mon-Sat 10.30-7; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, manga, toys, Star Wars) 0207434 9363

Outer London

A Place in Space, 101 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, prl, merch, sci-fi, original art) 0208686 2400

Ashcan, 3 Eagle Star House, 299-301 High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1LG. Mon-Wed/Fri 10.30-5.30; Thurs 10-7; Sat 9-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch) 0208770 3815

Atomic Comics, 1112 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Tues 10.30-5.30; Wed 1-5.30; Thurs 10.30-6; Fri 10.30-6.30; Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, art books, Games Workshop, toys, kits) 0208 597 8547

Calamity Comics, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon-Wed 10-6, (Thurs-Fri to 7); Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, fantasy film/TV, books, videos) 0208 427 3831

Forbidden Planet, 175 North End, Croydon CR0 1TP. Mon-Fri 10-6; (Thurs to 7); Sat 9.30-6. (back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, CCG, merch) 0208 688 7190

Into the Void, 262 Streatham High Road, Streatham SW16 1HS. Mon-Sat 9.30-7; Sun 11-3. (imp, back, STO, merch, toys) 0208 677 7037

Krypton Komics, 252 High Road, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Fri 10.30-6; Sat 10-6 Nearest Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind) 0208 801 5378 fax: 8376 3174

They Walk Among Us, 26 Red Lion Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1RW. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 6); Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, fantasy/sci-fi/horror, subculture) tel/fax: 020 8948 8476

30th Century Comics, 18 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 1JP. Mon-Wed 10.30-6; Thurs-Fri 10.30-7; Sat 10.30-6; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, Gold/Silver/Bronze Age specialists, British comics/annuals, books) 0208 788 2052

South East

Ace Comics, 63/64 High Street, Colchester, Essex. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch) 01206 561912

The American Comic Shop, 1 Church Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4BS (off High Street). Mon-Fri 10-5.30 (Tues until 5); Sat 9-5.30. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, action figures) 01634 817410

Calamity Comics 2, 90 Queens Road, The Broadway, Watford WD1 2LA. Mon-Tues 10-5.30; Thurs/Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, fantasy film/TV, books, videos) 01923 249293

Cartoon Shop, 19 East Square, Basildon, Essex SS14 1HT. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, merch) 01268 534194

Central City Comics, 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, foreign) 01473 233017

Chaos City, 20 Heritage Close, (off High Street), St Albans, Herts AL3 4EB. Mon-Thurs 10-5.30; Fri 10-7.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) 01727 838719

Comic Showcase, 19-20 St Clements Street, Oxford OX4 1AB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01865 723680

Comics Unlimited, Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Herts. Mon-Sat 9-5.30 (closed Wed) (imp, back, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, videos, Games W/shop) 01462 480018

Comix-shop.co.uk, 7a High Street, Maidenhead SL6 1JN. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, tpbk, gn, merch, CCG, toys) 01628 777998

David's Comic Shop, 5 Sydney Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 4EN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.45; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g) 01273 691012

Daydream Nation Trading Cards at Hive, 6 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 4AL. Mon-Sat 10-6 (CCGs, cards, sports, Ultra-Pro) 01273 687 877

Forbidden Planet, 60 Burleigh Street, Cambridge CB1 1DJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, CCG, merch, videos, sci-fi/fantasy books, film/TV magazines) 01223 301666

NEW **Forbidden Planet**, 44 The Priory Centre, Dartford, Kent DA1 2HS. Mon-Wed 10.30-5.30; Thurs-Sat 10-5.30 (back, gn, ind, PRG, CCG, merch) 01322 224837

Incognito Comic Shop, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film/TV) tel/fax: 01227 785898

Into the Void, 324-325 Chartwell North, Top Floor, Victoria Plaza, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 5SR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch) 01702 613021

Into the Void, 61 Lower Ground Floor, Lakeside Shopping Centre, West Thurrock, Essex RM20 1WT. Mon-Fri 10-10; Sat 9-7.30; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, prl, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, art, statues) 01708 862675

Off World: The Sci-Fi Store, 142 Market Halls, Arndale Centre, Luton LU1 2TP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, STO, s-p, CCG, merch, Star Trek/Wars, sci-fi collectables) 01582 736256

Phoenix Fantasy, 9 Market Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1EU. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch) 01843 224768

Slough Computers, 50 Village Shopping Centre, Slough, Berks SL1 1HP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, STO, ind, cards, second hand computer games) 01753 521594

Speeding Bullet Comics, 43 Hermitage Road, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1BY. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Wed 10-5); Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, s-p, merch, STO, CCG, action figures, original artwork, life-size Spidey mannequin for hire) 01462 451117

Whatever Comics, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, kits) 01227 453226

Whatever Comics, 5 Middle Row, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1TF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, model kits) 01622 681041

Midlands

Abstract Sprocket, 29 St Benedicts Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4PF. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01603 624410

Another World, 42/43 Main Centre (opposite Wilkinsons) Derby. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30, Sat 9-5.30, Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, merch, rock/film/TV memorabilia, computer games) 01332 206606

Another World, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 9-5.30, Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, foreign, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 01162 515266

Another World, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon-Fri 9-5.30, Sat 9.30-5.30, Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, foreign, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 0115 948 4122

Another World, 52 Stafford Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1JB. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30, Sat 9-5.30, Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01782 279294 fax: 202381 Mail Order: 271750

Another World, 23 Victoria Street, Wolverhampton WV1 3NP. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 9-5.30, Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01902 717440

Forbidden Planet, 31 Cross Cheaping, Coventry CV1 1HF. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 (Thurs to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV) 024 76229672

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 129 Middle Walk, Broadmarsh Centre, Nottingham NG1 7LN. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV) 0115 958 4706

Forbidden Planet Superstore, 38 Priory Queensway, Birmingham B4 7LA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30; (Thurs-Fri to 6) (imp, back, gn, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, books, games, mags, kits, toys, videos) 0121 236 3026

Ground Zero, 9 Toothill Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 1NJ. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, prl, CCG, merch, toys) 01623 622017

Nostalgia & Comics (FPI), 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon-Thurs 9.15-5.45, Fri-Sat 9.15-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 0121 643 0143

Page 45, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY. Mon-Sat 9-6. (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, manga) 0115 950 8045

Phoenix Comix, 29 Abington Square, Northampton NN1 4AE. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, RPG, CCG, action figures) 01604 602311

Travelling Man, c/o Gamestation, 1st Floor, 6 East Street, Derby DE1. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures, fantasy books, film/TV) 0115 950 9231

Travelling Man, c/o Gamestation, 1st Floor, 16 Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures, miniatures) 0115 950 9231

North West

All-American, 102 Newport Street, Bolton BL3 6AB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, STO, merch, Star Wars, WWF, action figures, S/Age, videos, records, CDs) 01204 366553

Alpha Omega Comics, 33-35 Library Street, Wigan, Lancs WN1 1NN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, merch, videos) 07796 854644

Forbidden Planet, 92 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 4HY. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, sci-fi/horror) 0151 707 1491

Forbidden Planet Megastore (FPI), 65 Oldham Street, Piccadilly, Manchester M1 1JR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30, Sun 12-5 (2 floors; imp, back, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, books, toys, film and TV tie-ins, manga) 0161 839 4777

Imagination Station, 41 Bank Street, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8HJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch)

Millennium Comics, 4 Church Road, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5NT. Mon-Tues 10-5; Wed closed; Thurs-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, RPG, merch, action figures, toys) 01606 49255

Moonwalk Collectables, 88 Oldham Street, Manchester M4 1LF. Mon-Sat 10-6 (back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, merch, Star Wars & Dr Who specialist, TV/film, British titles) 0161 907 3245

Thunderbooks, 332 Lytham Road, Blackpool FY4 1DW. Mon, Tues, Thurs-Sat (Sun June-Oct inc) 10-5.30; Wed 1-3.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, media collectors' items) 01253 348321 fax: 407813

Thunderbooks II, 116 Friargate, Preston, PR1 9EE. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, merch) 01772 204287

Time Tunnel, 13 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2BS. Mon and Wed-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, merch, film/TV memorabilia, action figures, videos, model kits) 01270 215496

Worlds Apart (FPI), 58-60 Lime Street (city centre), Liverpool. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Fri 10-7) (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film) 0151 707 0839

North East

Books N' Comics, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, merch, fantasy and film magazines, Doctor Who/Star Trek) 01642 249143

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 30 Eastgate, The Headrow, Leeds LS2 7JL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, film/TV mags, posters, toys, kits, trading cards, stills, Star Trek/Doctor Who) 01132 426 325

Forbidden Planet, 59 Grainger Street, Newcastle NE1 5JE. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV mags, fantasy/sci-fi books, videos) 0191 261 9173

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 41 Dundas Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1HR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs until 7) (imp, gn, s-p, STO, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, video, action figures, film/TV, manga) 01642 248889

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield. Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 9.30- 5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, original art, model kits, sci-fi/fantasy books, horror mags, newspaper strip books) 0114 276 9475

Galaxy 4, 493 Glossop Road, Broomhill, Sheffield S10 2QE. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, merch, Doctor Who/Star Wars, TV, paperbacks) 0114 268 4976

The Last Picture Show, 38-39 The Lanes, The Oasis, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP. Mon-Thurs 10-8; Fri 10-9; Sat 9-7, Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV and rock memorabilia) 0114 256 9604 fax: 255 3399

Millennium Comics, Stall 141, Warrington Indoor Market. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, RPG, merch, action figures, toys) 01925 575657

Off-World Comics, 200 Park View, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3QP. Mon-Tues/Thurs 10-5.30 (closed Wed); Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, CCG, merch) 0191 251 2288

Sheffield Space Centre, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield. Mon-Sat 10-5 (Wed closed) (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, merch, Star Trek) 0114 275 8905

Travelling Man, Unit 8/9, The Corn

Exchange, Call Lane, Leeds LS1 7BR. Mon-Thurs 10-5.30, Fri-Sat 9-5.30, Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures) 0113 242 7227

Travelling Man, 54 Goodramgate, York YO1 2LF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures) 01904 628787

West Country

American Dream Comics, 72 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BD. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, original art, hobby kits, CDs) 01225 424881

Area 51, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, original art) 0117 924 4655

Automattic Comics, Unit 2, 17 Pickwick Road, Corsham SN13 9BQ. Mon-Tues 12-5, (Wed closed), Thurs-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01249 701647

Collector's Choice, 45 Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1TX. Mon-Sat 9-5 (S/Age, British comics/annuals, vintage mags, toys, memorabilia) 01452 410232

Forbidden Planet, 30 Penn Street, Bristol BS1 3AS. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 7), Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV mags, subculture) 0117 929 8692

Forbidden Planet, 43-45 East Street, Southampton SO14 3HN. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 6), Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV) 02380 230991 fax: 230996

Ian's Books & Comics, 195a Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO4 0JP (next to Tesco). Mon-Tues/Thurs-Fri 10.30-5.15 (Wed closed) Sat 10-5.15 (imp, back, tpbk, STO, s-p, prl, toys) 02392 422731

Into the Void, 11 Rodbourne Road, Swindon SN2 2AG. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, CCG, merch) 01793 434363

Kaboom, 65 High Street, Totnes, Devon TQ10 9PU. (new, back, action figures, t-shirts, board games, RPG, import computer games, mail order) 01803 863049

Kathles Comics, Unit BG29, Broadmead Gallery, The Galleries Shopping Centre, Bristol BS1 3XB. Mon-Wed/Fri-Sat 9-5.30; Thurs 9-6; Sun 11-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0117 922 1170

Kathles Comics, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon-Fri 9.30- 5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 01752 257800

Kernow Comix & Kollectables, (opposite Kazbah Bar) Quay Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2HB. Mon-Sat 10-5 (back, gn, tpbk, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, CCG, merch, film/TV fantasy, manga, toys, action-figures, UK comics/annuals) 01872 279805

Mondo Comics, 265 Commercial Road, Portsmouth PO4 0AB (round the corner from Sainsbury's). Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, prl, merch) 02392 851820

Paradox Comics, 30 Hill Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1NR. Mon-Fri 10.30-5; Sat 10-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, ind, merch, videos) 01202 661346

Purple Haze, 38 Eastlake Walk, Drakes Circus Shopping Centre, Plymouth, Devon PL1 1BX. Mon-Fri 10-5.30, Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, film, TV, sci-fi/horror/genre books, videos, Star Trek/Wars, cassettes/CDs) 01752 254136

Wonderworld, 540 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH1 4BE. Mon-Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, CCG, merch, film/TV/media, beanie babies) 01202 394918 or 393613

Wales

Cardiff Fantasy Centre, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sat 9.30-4.30 (imp, back, STO; established over 20 years) 029 206 58184 (eves)

Comix Shoppe, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, anime, Games Workshop) 01792 642097

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, sci-fi/fantasy/horror books, Star Trek/Wars) 029 202 28885

Negative Zone, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind; established for 11 years) 01633 222159

Scotland

Asylum Books & Games, 29 Adelphi, Aberdeen AB11 5B2. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Mon and Thurs to 8); Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, new/second hand RPG, CCG, books, original art) 01224 574637

Black Hole Comic Shop, Unit 3, 5 Victoria Road, Dundee DD1 1ER. Mon-Thurs 10-5; Fri-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, second hand records, CDs, videos) 01382 221037

City Centre Comics, 51 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5LU. Tues-Sat 10-5 (back) 0141 552 2208

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 12 Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1JX. Mon-Fri 10-6 (Thurs until 7); Sat 9.30-5.30l; Sun 12-5 (imp, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, CCG, merch) 01224 622131

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 40-41 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1LL. Mon-Wed 10-5.30, Thurs 10-6.30; Fri-Sat 10-5.30 Sun 12-5. (imp, STO, s-p, ind, merch, foreign) 0131 558 8226

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 168 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30, Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 0141 331 1215

Justice Comics, Unit 36, The Arcade, Stirling, Fife FK8 1AX. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch) 01786 447687

Plan 9, 9 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1NE. Mon-Sat 10-5 (Thurs to 6), Sun 1-4. (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, WWF, merch, sci-fi) tel/fax: 01224 624467

Red Hot Comics, Block D Unit 7, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH. Sat 11.30-6; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0141 630 0049

Northern Ireland

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch) 028 90438744

Retail Index: USA

When telephoning from outside the USA, include the bracketed 00. Out-of-town US calls begin with the 1 prefix only. The following is a fraction of the estimated 3,000+ US comics stores.

Alabama

Optic Nerve, 1930 12th Avenue South, Birmingham AL 35205 (film, newsstand, ind) (00)1 205 933 2787

Alaska

Bosco's In Spenard, 2606 Spenard Rd, Anchorage 99503. Mon-Sat 11-8, Sun 12-6 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, anime, merch) (00) 1 907 274 4112

Bosco's Diamond Centre, 800 East Diamond Blvd, Anchorage 99577. Mon-Fri 10-9; Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, anime, games, Star Wars/Trek) t/f: (00) 1 907 344 3963

Bosco's In Eagle River, 11432 Business Blvd, Eagle River. Mon-Sat 12-8, Sun 12-5 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, merch) tel/fax: (00) 1 907 696 5166

Arizona

Lost Dutchman, 747 West Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013. Mon-Sun 10-7. (new, back, S/Age) tel/fax: (00)1 619 278 0371

California

Comickaze, 5525 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA 62117-2342. Mon-Fri 11-7; Sat 11-6; Sun 12-6 (new, back, CCG, merch) (00)1 858 278 0371

Comix Experience, 305 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Mon-Sat 11-7; Sun 12-5 (new, back) (00)1 415 863 9258 (fax: 9299)

Flying Colors Comics, 2980 Treat Blvd, Concord, CA 94518. Mon-Sat 11-7 (Fri until 8); Sun 12-6 (new, back, ind, cards, merch) (00)1 510 825 5410

Lee's Comics, Inc., 1020-F N Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94043. Mon-Sun 10-9 (new, back: 1930s to date, anime, manga, s-p, adult, merch) (00)1 650 965 1800

Lee's Comics, Inc., 2222 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403. Mon-Sun 10-9, (new, back: 1930s to date, anime, manga, adult, s-p, merch) (00)1 650 571 1489

Meltdown Comics & Collectibles, 7522 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046 (toys, comics, books) (00)1 323 851 7223

Stand-Up Comics, 10020 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Mon-Fri 11 7; Sat-Sun 11-6 (new, back, cards, anime, CCG, merch) t/f: (00)1 510 525 3344

Third Planet, 3822 Sepulveda Blvd, Torrance, CA 90505. Sun-Thurs 11-8; Fri + Sat 11-9 (new, ind, back, CCG, RPG, GW, sci-fi/fantasy, anime, merch) (00)1 310 791 6227

Hawaii

Gecko Books & Comics, 3613 Waialae Ave, Honolulu, 96816. Mon-Sun 9-9 (new, back, cards, toys, merch) (00)1 808 732 1292 (fax: 2188)

Illinois

Comic Kingdom, 5941 W Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60634. (new, back) (00)1 773 545 2231

Louisiana

Comic Cosmos, 343 W Esplanade Ave, Kenner, LA 70065. Mon-Thur 11.30-7, Fri-Sat 11-7.30, Sun 12-5 (new, back, cards, CCG, toys, anime) (00)1 504 286 0039

Crescent City Comics & Cards, 6111 Elysian Fields, New Orleans, LA 70122. Mon-Sat 11-7, Sun 12-6 (new, back, cards, CCG, RPG, anime) (00)1 504 286 0039

More Fun Comics, 8200 Oak St, New Orleans, LA 70118. Tues-Sat 11-7, Sun-Mon 12-6 (new, back, cards, CCG, merch, toys, CDs) (00)1 504 865 1800

Maine

Casablanca Comics, 151 Middle Street, Portland, ME 04101. Mon-Sat 10-9, Sun 12-7 (new, back, cards, CCG, RPG, merch, art) (00)1 207 780 1676

Casablanca Comics, 778 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, ME 04062. Mon-Fri 11-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5 (new, back, cards, CCG, RPG, merch, art, GW) (00)1 207 892 0056

Massachusetts

Comicopia, 464 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, Massachusetts 02215. Mon-Sun 11-7 (Wed 10-8) (new, merch, CCG, White Wolf, manga, tpbk) (00)1 617 266 4266

Minnesota

Uncle Sven's Comic Shoppe, 1838 St Clair Avenue, Saint Paul MN 55105. Mon-Fri 3-6, Sat 11-4 (New, back, tpbk, gn, videos, action figures, CCG, RPG; est 19 years) (00)1 651 699 3409

New York State

Earthworld Comics, 327 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. Mon-Wed 11-6; Thur-Fri 11-7, Sat 11-6, Sun 12-5 (new, back, ind, manga/anime, cards, merch) (00)1 518 465 5495

Forbidden Planet (FPI associate), 840 Broadway (at 13th St, NY 10003. Mon-Sat 10-10; Sun 12-10. (new, ind, back, RPG, merch, fantasy) (00)1 212 473 1576

Jim Hanley's Universe Ltd, 4 West 33rd Street (opposite Empire State Building), NY 10001. Mon-Sat 9am-11pm; Sun 10-9. (Everything to do with comics) (00)1 212 268 7088

Jim Hanley's Universe Ltd, 325 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island, NY 10306. Mon-Sun; 12-9. (Everything to do with comics) (00)1 718 351 6299

Midtown Comics, 200 West 40th Street, NY 10018 (00)1 212 302-8192

Ohio

The Laughing Ogre, 4258 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214. Mon-Sat 10-9; Sun 12-5 (new, back, cards, merch) (00)1 614 267 6473

Oklahoma

Time Warp, 588 SE Washington Street, Bartlesville, OK 74006 (new, back, cards, games, toys, CDs, sci-fi/fantasy) (00)1 918 335 3373

Pennsylvania

Comic Castle, 17 West Fourth St, Williamsport, PA 17703 Mon-Sun 10-9 (new, back, S/G Age)(00)1 717 322 8763

Golden Eagle, Berkshire Square, 1159 Berkshire Blvd, Wyoming, PA 19610 (new, back, games, CCG, cards, Star Wars/Trek) (00)1 610 376 8255

Golden Eagle, Fairgrounds Square Mall, Reading, PA 19605 (new, back, games, CCG, cards, Star Wars/Trek) (00)1 610 921 3160

Tennessee

Collector's World, 1511 E Main St, Murfreesboro TN 37130. Open 7 days a week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (00)1 615 895 1120

Collector's World, Hickory Plaza South Central, 5751 Nolensville Road, Nashville, TN 37211. Open all week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (00)1 615 895 1120

Collector's World, 10820 Kingston Park #10, Knoxville, TN 37922 Open 7 days a week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (00)1 423 675 6830

Collector's World, 4006 Granny White Park, Nashville TN 37204 (new, back, CCG, merch)(00)1 615 385 8136

Texas

Cliff's Comics, 2205 West Berry St, Fort Worth, TX 76110. (new, back, t/cards, merch) (00)1 817 927 7172

Collectible Heroes, 502 West Calton Road #307, Laredo, TX 78041. Mon-Wed 2-7.30; Thurs-Sat 11.30-7.30 (new, back, cards, merch) (00)1 956 791 8428

Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy, 616 West 34th Street, Austin, TX 78705 (new, back, games, anime, miniatures, prl) (00)1 512 454 2399

Virginia

Thore Comics, 3514 Oaklawn Blvd, Hopewell, VA 23860. Mon-Sat 11-7, (new, back, Silver Age, sci-fi, M:TG, cards, vinyl) (00)1 804 458 9561

Trilogy Shop, 700 E Little Creek Rd, Norfolk, VA 23518. Mon-Fri 11-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 12-6 (new, back, merch) (00)1 757 587 2540 (fax: 5637)

Wisconsin

Lost World of Wonders, 6713 West Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53219 (00)1 414 328 4651 (fax: 328-1355)

Direct Market Retailers:

***Comics International**'s Retail Index is THE international retail reference source for collectors, creators, publishers and journalists. Through it you can reach over 40,000 dedicated readers each issue for only £6 (US $10) a month! Bookable in 6-issue blocks, retailers wishing to be included should send US $60 or £36 (UK: please add £6.30 to cover VAT @ 17.5%) plus shop information as detailed on previous page to:*

Retail Index, Comics International, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ, England

Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International. Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(11 44) 1273 566 333 or e-mail: Listings@comicsinternational.com

The letters **(FPI)** after various entries indicates that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International Ltd**

Retailers: International

Australia

Arcadia Unbound, 267 Forest Road, Hurstville, NSW 2220. Mon-Fri 10.30-7, Sat 10-4, Sun 12-3 (imp, back, manga, merch, CCG) (0061) 2 9585 1489

Books & Bounties/Comics Haven, 157a Charters Towers Road, Townsville, Queensland 4812. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, gn, merch, RPG, CCG) (0061) 7 4779 2408

Fan Attic, 1st Floor, 91 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4002. Mon-Sun 9.30-5.30 (toys, Star Wars, sci-fi collectibles) (0061) 7 3221 1420

Kinda Lotsa Comics and Stuff, Shop 4, 503-511 King Street, Newtown, Sydney, NSW. Mon-Sat 10.30-7.30 (back, toys, merch)(0061) 2 9565 1054

Known Space Books, 1st Floor, 108 Gawler Place, Adelaide, SA 5000. Wed-Sat 12-6 (US/UK back) (0061) 8 8223 4304

Phantom Zone, 23 Anderson Street, Chatswood, NSW 2067. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9411 3709

Phantom Zone, 198 Mann Street, Gosford, NSW 2250. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 43 25 4599

Phantom Zone, 207 George Street, Liverpool, NSW. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9601 2622

Phantom Zone, 285 Hunter Street, Newcastle, NSW. 2300. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 4929 5717

Phantom Zone, 101a Argyle Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150 Mon-Fri 9-6; Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, books, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9891 1848

Phantom Zone, 268 Crown Street, Wollongong, NSW. 2500. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, gn, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 4228 7393

Austria

Comic Treff, Getreidemarkt 2-4, 1010 Vienna. Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 10-1 (imp, back, gn, CCG) (0043) 11 586 76 27

Belgium

Forbidden Zone, 25 Rue de Tamines, 1060 Brussels. (3 floors; imp, back, merch, US/French, STO, toys) (0032 2) 534 63 67 (fax 538 24 52)

Canada

Connection MD, 1539 Van Horne Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H2V 1L4. Mon-Sat 11-6 (new, merch, back, CCG) (00)1 514 948 2627

Dragon Lady Comics & Paper Nostalgia, 609 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M6G 1B5. (00)1 416 536 7460

Little Shop of Heroes, 160 Wallace Avenue, South Listowel, Ontario N4W 1X9 (00)1 519 291 2281

Silver Snail Comic Shop, 367 Queen Street West, Toronto M5V 2A4. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs-Fri 11-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5 (00)1 416 593 0889

France

Album, 67 boulevard St Germain, 75005 Paris. Mon-Sat 10-8; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, gn) (0033) 53 10 00 60

Album, 6 rue Dante, 75005 Paris. Mon-Sat 10-8; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, gn) (0033) 43 54 67 09

Alpha Omega, 25 rue de la Clef, 59800 Lille. Mon 2.30-7.30, Tue-Sat 10.30-12.30/2.30-7.30 (imp, back, French, merch, trading/gaming cards, toys, RPG, Wars/Trek, B5, L5R) (0033) 320 319 375

Astro City, 22 rue Masurel, 59800 Lille. Mon 3-7.30; Tue-Sat 10-12.30, 2-7.30 (imp, manga, cards, merch, kits) (0033) 320 55 1010

Impact Comics, 64 rue Condorcet, 75009 Paris. Mon-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, merch, CCG)(0033) 42 80 30 10

L'Antre des Dragons, 56 rue de Loup, 33000 Bordeaux. Mon-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0033) 55 65 17 378

Les Nageurs de Sable, 14 rue Courteline, 37058 Tours. Mon-Sat 11-1/2-7 (imp, back, cards, merch) (0033) 2 47 39 52 40

Pulps, 14 bld Morland, 75004 Paris. Mon-Sat 11-7 (imp, back, RPG) (0033) 1 42 72 55 25

Germany

Black Dog Comics, Rodenberg Strasse 9, 10439 Berlin. Mon-Fri 11-6.30, Sat 11-2 (imp, back, gn, t/cards) (0049) 30 4473 6486

Grober Unfug, Zossenerstrasse 32-33, 10961 Berlin. Mon-Sat 11-7 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (0049) 30 6940 1490

Greece

Metropolis Comics, 94 Metropoleos St, 54622 Thessaloniki. Mon-Sat 10.30-3.30/7.30-11.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0030) 3 193 7775

Solaris, 6 Botasi Str, 10682, Athens. Mon-Sat 9-3.30/5-8.30 (imp, back, gn, merch) (0030) 1 384 1065

Holland

Henk Lie's Comics & Manga Store, Zeeduk 104, 1012BB Amsterdam. Mon-Sat 11-6; Sun 11-9 (imp, cards, merch, CCG) (0031) 20 421 3688

Hungary

Troll Kepregenyta'r, Terez Krt 13, Budapest 1067. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1(imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0036) 1 322 6026

Irish Republic

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 5-6 Crompton Quay, Dublin 2. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Thurs 10-7); Sun 12-5 (imp, back, ind, merch, u/g, UK, gn, STO) (0035) 3167 10688

NEW **Sub-City Comics**, 2 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) (0035) 3167 71902

NEW **Sub-City Comics**, Unit 10, Level 1, Corbettcourt Centre, Eyre Square, Galway. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) (0035) 3915 65994

The 3rd Place, Crow Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) (0035) 3163 36965

Italy

Avalon, via Battisti 9/b, Bologna. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10.30-1/2-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 051 234459

Avalon, via Pedriali 21, Forli. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 0543 33523

Avalon, via Settembrini 20, Milan. Mon 3.30-7.30, Tue-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 022 9400410

Avalon, via Foscolo 3, Padova. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7. (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch)(0039) 049 658290

Avalon, via Bissolati 68, Rome. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, back, gn, CCG, cards, merch)

Avalon, via Magenta 0, Torino. Mon 3.30-7, Tue-Sat 10.30-1, 2-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 011 5617252

Forbidden Planet, via Pinerolo 11/15, 00182 Rome (imp, back, gn) (0039) 06 70305702

Il Marchio Giallo, via Deghi Scipioni 116, Rome. Tue-Sat 10.30-1/2-7.30 (imp, back, merch, kits) (0039) 06 361 40 60

La Borsa del Fumetto, via Lecco 16, 20124 Milano. (imp, back, European and RPG, CCG) (0039) 11 5617252

Malaysia

The Mind Shop, Starhill Centre, Jalang Bukit Bintag, Kuala Lumpur. Mon-Sat 11-10 (imp, CCG, RPG, merch) (00603) 241 8871

The Mind Shop, S 58 Bandar Utama, Petaling Jaya. Mon-Sat 11-10 (imp, CCG, RPG, merch) (00603) 719 8246

The Mind Shop, Jin SS21/39, Petaling Jaya. Mon-Sat 11-10 (imp, CCG, RPG, merch) (00603) 717 6602

New Zealand

Heroes For Sale, Level 2, 62 Queen St, Auckland. Mon-Sat 10-7 (imp, back, s-p, merch, ind, u/g)(0064) 9 307 0682

Whitcoulls Corner Branch, 210 Queen Street, Private Bag 92098, Auckland. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, s-p, merch, ind, u/g) (0064) 9 356 5400 (fax: 9 356 5408)

Portugal

BdMania, Rua das Flores 67-71 R/C, 1200 Lisboa. Mon-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, CCG, merch) (00351) 21 346 1207

Interzona, Centro Comercial Brasilia, Loja 203, Rua Luis Veaga Lertao 98-120, 6050 Porto. Mon-Sat 11-11 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (00351) 22 609 1460

Mundo Fantasma, Centro Comercial Brasilia, Rua Luis Veiga Leitao, 98/120, 1 Andar-Loja 203, 4050-399 Porto. Mon-Sat 11-11 (US imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (00351) 22 609 1460

South Africa

Euroniag, Shop 79A, East Rand Mall, Boksburg, Johannesburg. Mon-Sun 9-10 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (0027) 11 896 3773

Zed Bree's Comic Universe, Mediterr-anean Building, 24 Tenth Ave, Edenvale 1610 Gauteng. 9.30-6 (imp, merch, gn, CCG) 002711 453 4215 (fax 453 4459)

Spain

Gigamesh, RDA San Pedro 53, 08010 Barcelona. Mon-Sat 10-1.30/4.30-8 (imp, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0034) 3 246 6359

Sweden

Comics Heaven, Stora Nygatan 23, 11127 Stockholm. Mon-Sat 10-6.30 (imp, back, gn, merch)(0046) 8 202516

Switzerland

Analph Comicladen Strassburgstr, 10 PO Box 1030, 8004 Zürich. (0041) 1 2419695 fax 1 2403442

The letters **(FPI)** after entries indicate that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International Ltd**

International Festivals

A listing of the world's major comics festivals and conventions. For further information, call the organisers on the phone, fax or e-mail numbers provided. To view updates, contact them on their websites. Organisers' estimates of their previous year's attendance is given in brackets.

January 23-26: France

ANGOULEME BD. (2002 est: 194,000). Organisers: Festival International de la Bande Dessinee, 2 Place d l'Hotel de Ville, 16000 Angouleme, France. Tel: 0033 05 45 97 86 50 fax: 0033 05 45 95 99 28. E-mail: b.monchart@labd.com Website: www.labd.com

February 28-March 2: US

MEGACON 2003, Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida. Organisers MegaCon, PO Box 1056, Safety Harbor, Florida 34695-1056, USA. Tel: 001 727 712 8700. E-mail: info@megaconvention.com Website: www.megaconvention.com

March: England

MEMORABILIA '03, NEC, Birmingham. (2002: 17,812). Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk Date: TBA

May: Finland

ARCTIC COMICS FESTIVAL, KEMI. (2002 est: 6,000). Organisers: The Arctic Comics Centre, Rautatienkatu 13 B, FIN-90100 Oulu, Finland. Tel: 00358 8 3121 540. fax: 00358 8 3121 541. E-mail: keikki.porkola@kemi.fi Website: www.kemi.fi/~sarjis Date: TBA

May: Spain

THE 21ST BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL COMIC FESTIVAL. (2002 est: 85,000). Organisers: Ficomic, Palau, 4 Baixos, 08002 Barcelona, Spain. Tel: 0034 93 301 23 69 fax: 0034 93 301 52 26. Website: www.ficomic.com Date: TBA

May 17-18: England

LONDON EXPO, ExCel Convention Centre, Royal Victoria Dock, London. Organisers: Sci-Fi Shows (Dept W), Nelson House, 341 Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, London E10 7LA. Tel: 020 8523 1074. E-mail: info@scifishows.com Website: www.londonexpo.com

May 24-25: England

Comics 2003, The Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Bristol. (2002 est: 4500). Organiser: Kev F. Sutherland. Website: www.sitsvac.org

June: Switzerland

FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE LA BANDE DESIGNEE DE SIERRE. (2002 est: unknown). Organisers: BD Sierre, Case Postale 707, 3960 Sierre, Switzerland. Tel: 0041 27 455 90 43 fax: 0041 27 455 91 01. Date: TBA

July 17-20: United States

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL '03, San Diego, California. (2002 est: 53,000). Organisers: Comic-Con International, PO Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92112-8458. Tel: 001 619 491 2475 fax: 001 619 414 1022. Website: www.comic-con.org

July: United States

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO CON 2003. (2001 est: 35,000) Organisers: Wizard World Chicago, 151 Wells Avenue, Congers, NY 10920-2064. Tel: 001 608 226 0200. Website: www.wizardworld.com Date: TBA

August: England

MEMORABILIA '03, NEC, Birmingham. (2002: 18,853). Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk Date: TBA

August 22-24: Canada

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXPO '03, Metro Toronto Convention Center, Toronto, Ontario. (2002 attendance: 15,000) E-mail: info@hobbystars.com

August: Scotland

MEMORABILIA '03, The SECC, Glasgow. (2002 attendance: 7,342) Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star St, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk Date: TBA

Comics Publishers

North America

Unlike Europe, North American publishers invariably favour indie status to that of being labelled small press. This results in there being hundreds of comics publishers.

While circulations vary immensly, the following are the continent's major comicbook producers with titles printing between 5,000 and 150,000 copies. Contact phone numbers are given where readily available.

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, PO Box 1674 Station C, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2 (Cerebus)

ABSTRACT STUDIOS, PO Box 271487, Houston, TX 77277-1487 (Strangers in Paradise)

AC COMICS, PO Box 521216, Longwood, FL 32752-1216 (adventure titles, Golden Age superhero and western reprints)

ACCLAIM COMICS, 1 Acclaim Plaza, Glen Cove, NY 11542 (game tie-in adventure, Valiant superhero imprint. dormant) (00)1 516 656 5000

AIT/PLANET LAR, 2034 47th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116 (graphic novels) (00)1 415 504 7516

ALTERNATIVE COMICS, 503 North West 37th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609-2204 (alternative and graphic novels) (00)1 352 373 6336

AMERICAN MEDIA CONSUMER ENTERTAINMENT, INC, 600 East Coast Avenue, Lantana, Florida 33464 (Cracked) (00)1 561 586 1111

ANTARCTIC PRESS, 7272 Wurzbach, Suite 204, San Antonio, Texas TX 78240 (adventure and US manga)

ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS, 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543 (humour) (00)1 914 381 5155

AVATAR PRESS, 9 Triumph Drive, Urbana, Illinois, IL 61802 (horror fantasy titles) (00)1 217 384 2211

AWESOME ENTERTAINMENT, 9744 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 402, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, CA 90212 (adventure titles; dormant)

BONGO ENTERTAINMENT, 1440 South Sepulveda Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (The Simpsons and related humour titles) (00)1 310 966 6168

CALIBER COMICS, PO Box 6191, Plymouth, MI 48170 (black and white adventure titles) (00)1 734 462 0457

CARTOON BOOKS, PO Box 16973, Columbus, OH43216 (Bone and related)

CROSSGENERATION COMICS, 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, FL 34677 (fantasy adventure) (00)1 813 891 1702

CRUSADE FINE ARTS LTD, PO Box 845, Bayport, NY 11705 (fantasy and adventure) (00)1 631 472 2866

DARK HORSE COMICS, 10956 South East Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222 (adventure titles, licensed, US and Japanese manga) (00)1 503 652 8815

DC COMICS, 1700 Broadway, NY 10019 (adventure and humour, MAD, Vertigo and Paradox Press imprints) (00)1 212 636 5400

DISNEY COMICS, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521 (humour titles) (00)1 818 507 5739

DRAWN & QUARTERLY, PO Box 48056, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2V 4SB (black and white biog)

DREAMWAVE PRODUCTIONS, 2750 14th Avenue, Suite 302, Markham, Ontario L3R 0B6, Canada

DYNAMIC FORCES, 155 Ninth Avenue, Suite E, Runnemede, NJ 08078 (variant editions and merchandise) (00)1 856 312 1040

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS, 7563 Lake City Way North East, Seattle, Washington 98115 (adventure, biographical and Eros adult) (00)1 206 524 1967

HARRIS COMICS, 1115 Broadway, 8th Floor, NY 10010 (Vampirella, fantasy and horror) (00)1 212 807 7100

HARVEY COMICS ENTERTAINMENTS, 100 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 91401 (humour) (00)1 310 451 3377

HEAVY METAL, 100 Merrick Road, Suite 400 East, The Rockville Center, NY 11570 (adult fantasy magazines and spin-off editions) (00)1 516 594 2130

HUMANOIDS PUBLISHING, PO Box 931658, Hollywood, California CA 90093 (US-European editions) (00)1 714 2880200

IMAGE COMICS, 1440 North Harbor Boulevard, Suite 305, Fullerton, CA 92835 (adventure) (00)1 714 2880200

MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, 10th Floor, East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016 (adventure, humour and licensed) (00)1 212 696 0808

NBM PUBLICATIONS, 185 Madison Avenue, Suite 1504, NY 10016 (adult fantasy graphic novels and magazines)

ONI PRESS, 6336 South East Milwaukie Avenue, PMB 30, Portland, OR 97202 (adventure) (00)1 503 233 1377

RADIO COMIX, 11765 West Avenue, PMB 117, San Antonio, TX 78216 (anthropomorphic manga) (00)1 210 348 7195

SIRIUS ENTERTAINMENT, INC, PO Box 128, Stanhope, NJ 07874 (adult)

SLAVE LABOR GRAPHICS PUBLISHING, 848 The Almeda, San Jose, CA 95126 (black and white fantasy) (00)1 408 279 0451

TOP COW, 10390 Santa Monica Boulevard #110, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (adventure and licensed)

TOP SHELF PRODUCTIONS, PO Box 1282, Marietta, GA 30061-1282 (alternative and biographical) (00)1 770 425 0551

TWOMORROWS PUBLISHING, 1812 Park Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina, NC 27605 (comics feature magazines) (00)1 919 833 8092

VEROTIK PRESS, PO Box 64859, Los Angeles, CA 07043 (adult fantasies)

VIZ COMICS, PO Box 77010, San Francisco, CA 94107 (English translated manga)

WaRP GRAPHICS, 43 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (Elfquest and spin-offs) (00)1 914 473 9277

WILDSTORM, 7910 Ivanhoe Street, #438 La Jolla, CA 92037 (includes ABC, Cliffhanger and Homage DC subsidiary imprints)

United Kingdom

The following are major UK newsstand comics and graphic novel publishers. If calling from outside of the UK, you should drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe and Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

DC THOMSON, Albert Square, Dundee DD1 9QJ (humour and adventure comics, pocket books and annuals)

EGMONT MAGAZINES LTD, 25-31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SU (humour, licensed and pre-school titles) 020 7344 6400

HAMLYN BOOKS, 2-4 Heron Quays, London E14 4JB (2000 AD graphic novels) 020 7531 8584

I FEEL GOOD LTD, 9 Dollington Street, London EC1V 0BQ (Viz) 020 7687 7000

JOHN BROWN PUBLISHING, The Boathouse, Crabtree Lane, Fulham, London SW6 (albums) 020 7381 6007

KNOCKABOUT COMICS, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (humour and underground comix, graphic novels) 020 8969 2945

PANINI COMICS (UK), Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent KT2 5UJ (humour and adventure titles, Marvel licensed) 01892 500 100

REBELLION DEVELOPMENTS LTD, The Studio, Brewer Street, Oxford OX11QN (Judge Dredd Megazine and 2000 AD) 01865 792201

THE REDAN COMPANY, Minsterley Hall, Shrewsbury SY5 0AA (pre-school humour and licenced titles) 01743 792660

SAVOY BOOKS, 446 Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester M20 3BW (adult comic magazines, books and graphic novels) 0161 833 2664

TITAN ENTERTAINMENT GROUP LTD, Titan House, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP (licensed graphic novels, books, magazines and comics) 020 7620 0200

France

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0033 becomes 011 33

ALBIN MICHEL, 22 rue Huyghens, 75014 Paris (albums) (0033) 1 42 79 10 00

CASTERMAN, 66 rue Bonaparte, 75006, Paris (albums and manga) (0033) 1 40 51 28 00

DARGAUD, 6 rue Gager Gabillot, 75015 Paris (albums and manga) (0033) 1 40 45 35 39

DELCOURT, 5 passage du Mont-Cenis, 75018 Paris (albums and comics) (0033) 1 53 41 86 10

FLUIDE GLACIAL, 33 avenue du Main, BP 187, 75755 Paris (comics and albums) (0033) 1 43 20 23 96

GLENAT, 31 rue Ernest Renan, 92130 Issy les Moulineaux (albums and manga) (0033) 1 41 46 11 11

J'AI LU, 84 rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris (licenced Japanese manga) (0033) 1 44 39 34 70

LES HUMANOIDES ASSOCIES, 24 avenue Philippe Auguste, 75011 Paris (albums)(0033) 1 44 93 88 33

MARVEL, BP 62, 06702 St Laurent Duvar (0033) 1 92 12 57 57

SEMIC FRANCE, 45 rue Broca, 75005 Paris (licenced comics and albums) (0033) 1 43 36 32 00

Italy

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0039 becomes 011 39

SERGIO BONELLI EDITORE, via Buonarroti 38, 20145 Milano (black and white comics) (0039) 02 96480403

MARVEL ITALIA, viale Emilio Po' 380, 41100 Modena (Marvel licensed titles)

CULT COMICS, viale Emilio Po' 380, 41100 Modena (Image and Dark Horse licensed)

MAGIC PRESS, Zona industriale via Ragusa 18, 00040 Pavona, Roma (Vertigo and WildStorm licensed) fax: (0039) 06 93020361

STAR COMICS, strada Selvette 1bis/1 Bosco (PG) (comics and black and white manga)

ASTORINA S.R.I., via Boccaccio 32, 20123 Milano (Diabolik original and reprint black and white)

KING COMICS, via Pinerolo 3, 00182 Roma (comics)

Spain

The following are the country's comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0034 becomes 011 34

NORMA EDITORAL, Fluvià 89, 08019 Barcelona (licensed DC and Dark Horse comics and albums) 0034 93 303 68 20

EDITORIAL PLANETA-DE AGOSTINI, SA, Aribau 185, 08021 Barcelona (licensed Dark Horse comics and albums)

TOUTAIN EDITOR, SA, Diagonal 325, E-08009 Barcelona (licensed Marvel, Dark Horse, Chaos!, Image and manga comics and albums) 0034 93 344 06 00

EDICIONES LA CÚPULA, Plaza de las Beatas 3, E-08003 Barcelona (adult comics and albums) 0034 32 682 8 05

Mail Order Specialists

Key to abbreviations used:

w/s = wholesale available
dis = bulk discount terms
cat = phone/write for catalogue
s-cat = sae for catalogue
wants = wants lists accepted
s-wants = sae with wants lists
CoBRA = Comic Book Retailers' mail order protection scheme
cc = major credit cards accepted
sae = send stamped, addressed envelope with your enquiry

When telephoning from outside the UK, drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe & Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

Golden Age

Generally acknowledged as being published between 1938 and 1945, the first age of superhero comics, but herein designated to cover all pre-Silver Age American comics.

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh St, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Incognito, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) tel/fax: 01227 785898

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax: 680686)

Silver Age

Accepted as starting in 1955 with DC's superhero rebirth through Detective Comics #225 (intro-ducing the Martian Manhunter) and Showcase #4 (introducing the Barry Allen Flash). Herein covering titles up to late 1960s.

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh St, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

East Coast Comics UK, 28 Acton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 7LG (high grade, s-want, cc, sae) 01502 578385 (day) 560727 (eve)

Incognito, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) tel/fax: 01227 785898

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Quicksilver Comics, PO Box 73, Ossett WF5 0YQ (s-cat, dis, wants, cc, CoBRA) 01924 270500 (fax: 270919)

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax 680686)

Post-Silver Age

Comics from 1970 to date: From Bronze Age-Marvel Age-Lead Age up to Platinum Age-Gimmick Age-Image Age. Historians will doubtless eventually decide on a name.

DBF Comics Mail Order, Tudor Books, 116 High Street, Weston Super Mare BS23 (s-cat, s-wants)

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse* PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Tarpaulin Books and Comics, 5 Oak Close, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3EZ (wants, s-cat) 01842 820139

Hot Comics

Current or key titles, first issues or first appearances of major characters. Investment titles for speculators willing to gamble.

A Place in Space, 101 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RN (wants, cc, dis) 020 8686 2400

Comix-shop. co.uk, 7a High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1JN (wants, cat, cc) 01628 777998

Advance Imports

US comics are not generally available in UK newsagents, except for some sea-freight shipped low-cover price DCs and Marvels, and can only be found through specialists in the rest of the world. The following companies offer air-shipped copies from all of the major US publishers.

Ace Comics, 63/64 High Street, Colchester, Essex (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 01206 561912

Avalon Comics, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11 5QJ (cc, CoBRA) 020 7924 3609

Comix-shop. co.uk, 7a High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1JN (wants, cat, cc) 01628 777998

86th Floor Comics & Cards, 6 Shipley Common Lane, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE78TR (dis,cat,cc) 0115 9443009

Forbidden Planet, 71 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DG (s-cat cc) 020 7497 2150

Gosh! Strips by Mail, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 020 7636 1011

Mega-City Comics, 18 Inverness St, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ (s-cat, cc, CoBRA) 020 7485 9320

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse*, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

Red Hot Comics, The Warehouse Block D Unit 8, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH (CoBRA, w/s, dis, wants, cc) tel/fax: 0141 630 0049

Limited Editions

Many high-profile miniseries and one-shots are also available in limited, numbered and often autographed editions (s&n). New titles, to acquire copyright, can also appear in small print-run "ashcan" editions (ash).

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (CoBRA, cc, ash, s&n, cat) 020 8446 3464

Trading Cards

Several mail order dealers carry a range of non-sports cards and related peripherals (files, folders, sleeves).

Beyond Comics, 76 Harlescott Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3BZ (s-cat, s-wants, sae, CoBRA) tel/fax: 020 7564 4213

John McDonald: Non-Sport Trading Cards, 20 Alder Grove, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire ML5 3PT (cat, wants) tel/fax: 01236 433358

Old British Titles

The popularity of old British comics continues to increase as more dealers expand into this area. The following specialise in such titles.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh St, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Weird Fantasy, 19 Decoy Road, Ormesby, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 3LG (s-cat, s-wants, annuals specialist)

Merchandise

Comics, film and TV-related t-shirts, posters, video games, badges, toys, action figures, etc.

Off World: The Sci-Fi Store, 142 Market Halls, Arndale Centre, Luton, Beds LU1 2TP. (specialists in Star Trek, Star Wars and sci-fi collectables) 01582 736256

Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct (FPI) and **Gear for Games (FPI)** Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD (cat) 01621 877222

Original Art

With artists having their originals returned by publishers, an increasing number of pages are now being made available for collectors.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh St, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax: 680686)

Peripherals

Acid-free protection for comics. Backing boards, protective bags, storage boxes, etc.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Incognito, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) tel/fax: 01227 785898

Just Comics, 65 Station Road, Warboys, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 2TH (w/s only, CollectorLine™ distributor) 01487 824895 01487 824896

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse*, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Rd, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

General Fantasy

As well as comics old and new, some suppliers also provide catalogues of multi-media fantasy, covering TV, film, trading cards and toys.

Forbidden Planet Mail Order, 144 Southwark St, London SE1 0UP (cat) 020 7803 1900 (fax: 7803 1901)

Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct (FPI) and **Gear for Games (FPI)** Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD (cat) 01621 877222

Manga Titles

English language translations of Japanese comics and US titles drawn in the Japanese style.

United Publications, 85 Croydon Road, Keston, Kent BR2 8HU (ind, back, cat, wants, cc) 020 8325 9507

Alternative & Biographical

The following carry an extensive range of biographical and slice-of-life comicbooks and graphic novels (Fantagraphics, Maus, Crumb, Pekar...)

Gosh! Strips by Mail, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH (wants) 020 7636 1011

Knockabout Comics, 10 Acklam Rd, London W10 5QZ (w/s, s-cat, cc) 020 8969 2945 (fax: 8968 7614)

Page 45, 9 Market St, Nottingham NG1 6HY 0115 9508045

Comics Auctions

Accepting lots from the general public, comics auctions provide an alternative way for collectors to sell their valuable comics. The following accept items for sale, as well as providing regular catalogues for mail order bids.

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh St, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Distributors

Anybody considering opening a comics shop or becoming a mail order dealer can obtain further information about the supply of titles from the following who bulk air import US and European comics and related items on a weekly basis.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP (graphic novels, art books, comics, remainders, film and TV, popular culture) 020 8768 0022

Diamond Comic Distributors, 2nd Floor, Warton House, 150 High Street, London E15 2NP (US and European comics, cards and related items) 020 8536 5730 (fax: 8536 5736)

Red Route Distribution, Unit 24, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (US & European comics/ graphic novels, back-list specialists) 020 8960 5855

Mail Order Dealers:

CI's Mail Order Index is the industry's most cost-effective and highly-targeted way to reach a huge dedicated audience in excess of 40,000 readers every month. It costs only £4 ($6 US) per entry per issue to appear and is bookable in advance as a 6-issue series. Send pre-payment of £24/$36 (plus £4.20 VAT for UK advertisers) per category with your details to:

Comics International, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ

Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International. Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(11 44) 1273 566 333 or e-mail: Listings@comicsinternational.com

The letters **(FPI)** after entries indicates that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International Ltd**

Classified

Advertising terms and conditions

Whether for publication or not, all advertisements must be accompanied by full name, home address and daytime phone number of advertiser.

• All private classified Wants or Announcements ads (comics or card related items only) are free of charge. Maximum 50 words, they will be printed at the publisher's discretion when space permits. *(Only one advertisement can be submitted per letter/per issue so everybody gets a chance to fit in!)*

• FOR SALE ads (and dealer wants/announcements) are charged:
(i) General announcements: Stating no issue numbers, prices or titles. Per 50 words (or part thereof) ..... £5.00 ($7.50 US)
(ii) List ads: (including specific titles, issues and/or prices. Minimum charge, per 100 words (or part thereof) ..... £10.00 ($15.00 US)

Payment (to Comics International) must accompany advertising copy.

CI Classified, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ

For Sale

For sale: **Miracleman** 1-22 near mint £95, **X-Files** 1-26 near mint £90, **Eagle** (1960s) 182 issues offers please, **TV21** #1 £90, Platinum **Spider-Man 1** offers please, **Watchmen** portfolio signed £125, **Dark Night Returns** 1-4 offers please. Private collector. Call James on 01582 69066.

For sale: Over 2,000 comics from the '70s to the '90s, US and UK publishers, including Marvel, DC and Fleetway. For full list send an sae to Gareth Jones, 5 Cavendish Court, Brandon, Durham DH7 8UL. Or e-mail mister_80s@hotmail.com.

Half-price sale: Many thousands of Marvel, DC and indies, all at half price. For full list send an sae to M. Cruden, 18 Backbower Lane, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 5NS, or phone 0161 366 8226, or e-mail mcruden@btinternet.com, or log on to http://members.lycos.co.uk/mcruden for full lists of comics for sale.

Unusual collection of comics, books and fanzines from the 1950s to the '70s for sale. Bronze Age run of **Strange Adventures**, **From Beyond the Unknown**, **Black Magic**, etc. All are in very fine to near mint condition; they have to be seen to be believed! Scarce British editions of **Mystery In Space**, **Flash**, **Tomahawk**, **Race for the Moon**, '50s ACG comics, Ditko Charltons etc. Many of the listed items rarely turn up in any condition. Can you afford not to send for my lists? I sell the obscure comics the big dealers rarely bother with. Send a large sae to Pete Brice, 28 The Ridings, Bishopsworth, Bristol BS13 8NX.

For sale: DC, Marvel, Image and indies from the 1970s to the 1990s. E-mail da_mic@hotmail.com for an extensive list. If there is anything not on the list that you are looking for let me know. I may just have it, and may be persuaded to part with it! Contact Michael Van-Yeboah, 41 Arthur Court, Battersea, London SW11 5JA. Tel: 07989 592 928.

Private collector offering over 20,000 different comics, plus duplicates, 1970s to present. All companies, including high-grade **Daredevil** 11-380. Other commitments means list is sent out April 2003. Order your copy now. Can you afford to miss it? Richard Domar, 9 Highlands Road, Wolverhampton WV3 8AH. Tel: 01902 335027 (Wed/Thurs 2-7pm).

Wanted

Advertisers are reminded that Wanted ads must be no longer than 50 words (including address), and only single insertion private advertisements can be published free of charge.

Issues 1, 2 and 3 of **2000 AD** wanted. Top price paid by private collector. Also want issue 1208. Telephone 020 8886 6933 and ask for Justin. Also want **2000 AD Winter Special** from 1995.

Buster comics (between October 1960 and September 1966) always wanted. Also **Buster** annuals featuring Maxwell Hawke, Ghost Hunter. Single comics or collections. Contact C. Mason, 16 Church Street, Clayhanger WS8 7EG. Tel: 01543 821422

Wanted: **LOTDK** Annual 4, **Elseworlds Finest** 2, **JLA** Annual 8, **JLI** Annual 5, **League of Justice** 2, **Secret Society of Superheroes** 1, **Superboys Legion** 2, **Teen Titans** Annual 10, entire **Young Justice** *Sins of Youth* storyline, **2000 AD** 750-760, **2000 AD Action Special** March '92. E-mail: ellencassidy1@activemail.co.uk

Wanted: **Judge Dredd**, **Rogue Trooper** and **Strontium Dog** comics, published by Eagle/Quality/Fleetway. Call Dermot on 028 7035 6234 (evenings or weekends).

Wanted: **Charley's War** books 1 and 2, plus any original artwork from **Battle Weekly** (or anything **Battle Weekly** related). Tel: 0141 433 2843 or e-mail dbraysher@yahoo.co.uk.

Wanted: Warren Heidi Saha magazine and poster. E-mail: piers@casimir-mrowczynski.fsnet.co.uk

Private collector requires all copies of **Ghost** volume 1 (1995) issue 19, **Y The Last Man** issue 1, and **Gen**^{13} issue 76. Contact John Wall, 21 School Green Road, Freshwater, IOW PO40 9AJ. Or e-mail mjpip@btopenworld.com.

Comics wanted: I have £5000 available to buy someone's comics collection. E-mail giantplanetzero1950xcomics@hotmail.com or write c/o 19 Bayfield, Painters Forstall, Kent ME13 0EF with a rough idea of what you're selling. (NB: This is a mailing address only. Do not call round.)

Wanted: **Batman**, **Superman** and **Superboy** English annuals from the 1950s and '60s. Also *H.R. Pufnstuf*, *Huckleberry Hound*, *Yogi Bear*, *Rawhide*, *Supercar*, *Fireball XL5*. **Archie**: 80-page comics only. Madonna, Blondie and Bow Wow Wow books. And any Bettie Page material. Contact John Balfour, Westerstraat 67-3, Amsterdam, Holland 1015 LW.

Wanted: British original artwork by Frank Bellamy, Mike Noble, Don Lawrence, Gerry Haylock and Ron Turner. Very good prices paid. Also want Neal Adams art, especially his Marvel work. Please telephone Jeff on 01689 898108 or e-mail jeffrey@haythorpe.fsnet.co.uk.

Announcements

Fanzine and small press titles must not be offered for sale before being printed. To verify publication, a sample copy must be sent in along with the advertising copy (50 words max). Single bookings only, so everybody gets a chance!

Worried about war? Stuck in debt? Sick of the cult of celebrity? Then banish the blues with the autumn issue of **Mondo**, featuring Brit superheroes, boys own adventure and loads more! Only £1 from Lee Davis, 140 Amersham Avenue, Edmonton, London N18 1DY. See **Mondo** on-line at http://members.lycos.co.uk/mondomag and http://members.lycos.co.uk/sillyarts or e-mail mondomag@lycos.co.uk. Join the party... "hic!"

Writer/penciller/inker seeks colourist to collaborate on superhero Wings of Destiny. Must also print finished work for sale. If interested, send photocopies to Amde Ebanks, 40 Mary Datchelor Close, Camberwell, London, SE5 7AY.

Psst. Want some Ganjaman? **The Astounding Gangaman**, that is. Issues 1 to 4 for a fiver, or £2 each. You know a good deal when you see it. Just send your cheques to J. Stewart at Northern Lightz, PO Box 25285, Glasgow G2 6WE.

Calling all **CI** reviewers! Send me your postal addresses and I will send you free comics! John A. Short, 20 Grants Avenue, Bournemouth BH1 4NR or e-mail johnashort@hotmail.com.

Artists wanted for new Doom Patrol-ish mature readers superhero series for small press publication and submission to major publishers. Send art samples and an sae to Sam Johnson, 2 Pembroke Mansions, 16 Canfield Gardens, London NW6 3JX.

Warrior nuns, superhuman mercenaries, and a trio of unlikely heroes who may be onto the biggest secret in Earth's history. **Cosmos Inc** 1, available now from Tony Ingram, 3 Lower Harlings, Shotley Gate, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 1QE for a measly £1.50. Try it, or the nuns will get angry!

Where else can you find British superhumans, American Presidents and demon droppings, but in **Mondo**? The latest ish is now available for a mere quid! Make cheques payable to Lee Davis, 140 Amersham Avenue, Edmonton, London N18 1DY. Mondo: The Little Anthology that could!

Looking for hard-working, pro-quality artists; some able to draw in Chinese and manga styles. Contact Terry Hooper, 85 Risdale Road, Ashton Vale, Bristol BS3 2RB and please enclose an sae.

Comic Societies

Join The Eagle Society, dedicated to the memory of Britain's National Strip Cartoon Weekly – The Eagle 1950-1969. For just £17 per year (cheques should be made payable to The Eagle Society) members receive our quarterly journal **Eagle Times**, as well as the chance to attend social gatherings and meet original Eagle contributors. Write to the membership secretary: Keith Howard, 25a Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2UA. Or e-mail: Richard.Sheaf@uk.nestle.com

Comics Creators Guild: The Future of Comics in our Hands. Industry veterans and aspiring professionals. Join the largest comics organisation in Europe. Monthly meetings, newsletter, Comics Forum, exclusive publications, free legal advice, special discounts and more. For further information contact: Comics Creators Guild, 48 Siddons Road, London SE23 2JQ. www.comiccreators.org

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STAR TREK
STAR WARS
TOYS
TRADING CARD SUPPLIES
VIDEOS

HOW TO GET THERE. BUS: 68, 91, 168 or 188 to Woburn Place. UNDERGROUND: Piccadilly Line to Russell Square. NATIONAL RAIL: Euston and Kings Cross are within walking distance of the venue.

FUTURE DATE: 2ND FEBRUARY 2003

Events @ CAMDEN CENTRE
Bidbrough St, London WC1

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SUNDAY JANUARY 5

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HOW TO GET THERE. BUS: 10, 17, 30, 45, 46, 63, 73, 91, 214, or 259 to Kings Cross/Camden Town Hall. UNDERGROUND: Circle, Metropolitan, Piccadilly or Victoria Line to Kings Cross. BRITISH RAIL: Euston, Kings Cross and St. Pancras are within walking distance of the venue.

FUTURE DATE: 2ND MARCH 2003

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Events

A summary of all the events advertised this issue

January

5/1 **London:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street (p66)
12/1 **London:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London ..... (p66)
18/1 **Newcastle:** Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p56)
19/1 **Basildon:** Trading Card, Sci-Fi, Movie & Collectors Show, Basildon Sports Centre, Nethermayne ..... (p50)
25/1 **Manchester:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p56)
26/1 **Liverpool:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Gladstone Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool ..... (p56)

February

1/2 **Leeds:** Comic Mart & Card Show, with special guest Staz Johnson, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way ..... (p56)
2/2 **London:** The National Comicbook Marketplace and Card Mart, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way ..... (p66)
8/2 **Glasgow:** Scottish Comics, Card & Collectables Fair, James Moir Hall (Mitchell Theatre) Granville Street ..... (p38)
8/2 **London:** The London ABC Show, The Royal NAtional Hotel, Bedford Way, Russel Square ..... (p25)
8/2 **Birmingham:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham ..... (p56)
22/2 **Sheffield:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street ..... (p56)

March

1/3 **Nottingham:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling Street, Nottingham ..... (p56)
2/3 **London:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street (p66)
8/3 **Manchester:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p56)
9/3 **Liverpool:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Gladstone Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool ..... (p56)
15/3 **Birmingham:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham ..... (p56)
22-23/3 **London:** Chillerfest with special guests, Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow ..... (p50)
29/3 **Leeds:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds ..... (p56)

April

5-6/4 **Birmingham:** Memorabilia '02, Birmingham NEC ..... (p58)
12/4 **Newcastle:** Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p56)
19/4 **Nottingham:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling Street, Nottingham ..... (p56)
26/4 **Glasgow:** Scottish Comics, Card & Collectables Fair, James Moir Hall (Mitchell Theatre) Granville Street ..... (p38)
26/4 **Sheffield:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street ..... (p56)

May

3/5 **Manchester:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p56)
10/5 **Leeds:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds ..... (p56)
17/5 **Newcastle:** Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p56)
18/5 **London:** The London ABC Show, The Royal NAtional Hotel, Bedford Way, Russel Square ..... (p25)
24-25/5: **Bristol** Comic Festival 2003, Empire & Commonwealth Museum .. (p7)
31/5 **Birmingham:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham ..... (p56)

Please note: the above listing of UK comics, trading card and related events is free to Comics International display advertisers only.

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